

The Early Years of the Louisiana Mint

1837 – 1861

It was faced with challenges serious enough to come close to ceasing operations from 1837 until 1861. The New Orleans Mint was closed from June 1st of 1861 until it resumed operations in 1879. This is its story repeated from the handwritten words of the people who were there during that early turbulent time.

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Note:

The authors/publishers of this work wish to state that the details, descriptions and personalities used in this work are based on the most accurate information available, but could contain statements and beliefs that may not be completely accurate or that may change with further research and discoveries.

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The Louisiana Mint of New Orleans 1835 – 1861A brief history of its building, production and employees before the start of the War Between the States

Any story of a federal mint should begin with its architectural beginnings and that starts with a lengthy proposal brought forth in *The Pennsylvanian Newspaper* of Philadelphia, PA, dated Friday, April 10th, 1835. This proposal was presented to Architects and Builders to make their bids for the construction of the New Orleans Mint. Since the full report describing the mint by each floor and foundation is of significant length, we shall only repeat the starting paragraphs that set the stage, though a copy of the full report will also be illustrated in this treatise. Here is the beginning of that proposal:

“Proposals will be received by Martin Gordon, Esq, at New Orleans, until the 15th day of May next ensuing, for the construction of the following described building, viz:

The plan of the building consists of a center 90 feet in front, with two wings, each 96 feet, making the whole dimensions 282 feet by 81 feet. The elevation consists of three stories resting on a sub-basement of 2 feet in height; the Basement 11 feet; the Principal Story 16 feet, and the third or attic story 14 feet in height. The whole to be covered with a slate roof.”

The expressed purpose of this work is to present a detailed history of the New Orleans Mint before it was taken over by the state of Louisiana then the Confederate Government in early 1861. Before the takeover, the mint had quite a varied history, both good and bad, and we wish to present those facts, and events in a chronological format to the best of our ability. The following chronological history comes exclusively from the National Archives from both the archives in Philadelphia, PA and College Park, Maryland, and several excerpts from local newspapers of the period. At first, not all of the documents were reproduced into *Newman's Numismatic Portal* RG104 – time and funding a factor – from the period of 1848 until 1861, so other *Portal* sources were used to fill many of the gaps in the time recorded. **However, after publication of what was available, the archivists continued the document copy work until now it is quite complete, so therefore, this treatise is now revised and up to date. All years 1837 though 1861 now fully covered.**



From *The Pennsylvania Newspaper* of April 10th, 1835 of Philadelphia is this description of the new mint:

MINT AT NEW ORLEANS. To Architects and Builders.

PROPOSALS will be received by Martin Gordon, Esq. at New Orleans, until the 15th day of May next ensuing, for the construction of the following described building, viz:

The plan of the building consists of a centre 90 feet in front, with two wings, each 96 feet, making the whole dimensions 282 feet by 81 feet. The elevation consists of three stories resting on a sub-basement of 2 feet in height; the basement 11 feet; the Principal Story 16 feet, and the third or attic story 14 feet in height. The whole to be covered with a slate roof.

FOUNDATIONS.—The foundations are to be laid on plank at the depth of 4 feet below the surface of the pavement; these plank are to be placed in a trench 6 feet in width, one layer in a longitudinal, and the other in a transverse direction closely fitted together and perfectly level throughout. The foundation walls are to be of brick work, 3 feet 4 inches in breadth, laid in the middle of the planked bottom, which is to have at least 16 inches of an offset, both inside as well as outside of the walls.

SUB-BASEMENT.—The sub-basement, or water table course, is to be of granite at least one foot on the bed, and laid in lengths from 3 feet to 8 feet. This course of stone is to be washed back from the face at least 3 inches, which is the offset to the face of the wall of the basement story. This basement is to extend along the whole front and ends, where it is to be returned at the end of the wings and under the piazzas in the rear of the building.

BASEMENT.—The brick work of the basement story is to be carried up 3 feet in thickness to the springing line of the groin arches, which is to be at least 6 feet above the level of the water table or floor line of this story. The groin arches are to be composed of paving or hard bricks 9 inches in thickness, the rise 4 feet, and the span is to be filled up level with the top or crown of the arches. The whole area of this story is to be filled up with good clean gravel or sand, and flagged over with flags at least 3 inches in thickness, which flags are to form the first floor of the building throughout; the flag stones to be composed of Granite or hard sand stone. The basement is to be surmounted by a belting course of Granite 1 foot in height, and washed back at least 3 inches on the top; it is to be 1 foot in breadth on the bottom bed, and is to extend all round the building with a projection of two inches from the face of the wall of this story.

The windows are to be revealed frames, 3 ft. 8 by 6 feet in height, made of the best heart pine. The sash to be also of the best heart pine, three lights wide by four in height; glass, the best crown or Boston, in lights of 12 inches by 16 inches. The sills and heads of the windows to be of granite 4 feet in length for the sill, and 5 feet for the head; the sills to be at least 10 inches in width, and 5 inches in thickness, the whole finished with outside shutters. The windows of the basement story all round the building to be guarded by iron of at least one inch square placed in a vertical direction and 4 inches apart.

PRINCIPAL STORY.—The principal story walls to be 27 inches in thickness, and carried up ten feet to the springing line of the groin arches; these arches to be 9 inches in thickness and to rise 4 feet; the span is to be filled up level with the crown of the arches. The whole area of this story is to be flagged over, with the exception of the rooms, No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9, as marked in the plan of the principal story. The rooms marked 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

in number, 4 in front and 4 in the rear of the building at the inner angles of the piazzas; the comb of the roof to be covered with lead.

INTERIOR STAIRS.—There are to be three flights of interior stairways of stone, and two of wood. One in the hall or centre of the building, and one on the extreme ends of the wings; these are to be of stone. The centre flight of steps to be 5 feet in width, each step to be 7½ inches rise by 1 foot tread, those at the ends of the wings to be 4 feet in width, each step to be 7½ inches rise by 1 foot in the tread; each flight, from the basement to the attic story, is to be furnished with iron balusters at least 1 inch square, and a hand rail of mahogany 3 inches in diameter. The wooden flights are to be constructed from the basement story to the rolling room, and from the rolling room to the drawing and cutting room in the attic story, and from thence into the garret or roof of the centre building.

Over the central flight of stairs leading to the attic story, there is to be a sky light of 10 feet square, formed on the ridge of the roof to give light and ventilation to the halls of the principal and attic stories; this sky light to be formed of thick plate glass on each side of the ridge of the roof of the centre building.

PLASTERING.—The whole of the interior of the building is to be plastered with three coats of plain plaster, with plain cornices at the ceilings of the principal and attic stories; a centre piece or rosette is to be formed in the centre of the hall opposite the central stair way, for the purpose of hanging a lamp or chandelier in each of the stories. The ceiling of the piazzas of each story is to be plastered with three coats of plain plastering.

ROUGH-CASTING.—The whole of the exterior of the building is to be rough cast with good clean sand, washed and mixed with the best lime, well trowelled and jointed in courses corresponding with the courses of the pilasters and window heads; the color of the rough casting to correspond with that of the granite used in the building of the portico and pilasters.

PAINTING AND GLAZING.—All the wood work of every description as well as the iron work, is to be painted with three coats of paint of the best white lead, and all the sash are to be glazed with the best glass; the front windows to be glazed with English crown glass, and those of the rear in the wings and under the piazzas, of best Boston glass; all the sash to be well bedded in putty and painted with three coats of white lead.

IRON RAILING.—The whole lot upon which the building is to be erected, is to be enclosed with a dwarf wall and iron railing. The dwarf wall is to be composed of granite 2 feet in height by 14 inches in thickness, which is to support an iron rail let into the stone of 5 feet in height. This rail is to be of wrought iron, round, and 1 inch in diameter by 5 feet in height, with a plain spear head above the top rail, which is to be 3 inches in breadth by ½ of an inch in thickness. There are to be two gateways formed of wrought iron, 8 feet in width on the ends of the building opposite to the passage through the basement story; these gates are to have stone sills of the breadth or thickness of the dwarf wall, and are to be laid flush with the top of the pavement of the street. This railing is to be painted with three coats of paint.

All the scaffolding and hoisting machinery is to be found by the contractor, and no charge whatever is to be made for jobbing in the final completion of the work in every particular, according to the plans and elevations of the building.

The whole of the workmanship is to be done in the most substantial manner, and of the best materials, and in accordance with the designs and delineations referred to below—and to be completed within the time specified.

building to be guarded by iron rails, one inch square placed in a vertical direction and 4 inches apart.

PRINCIPAL STORY.—The principal story walls to be 27 inches in thickness, and carried up ten feet to the springing line of the groin arches,—these arches to be 9 inches in thickness and to rise 4 feet; the spandrels to be filled up level with the crown of the arch, to receive a flag stone floor. The whole area of this story is to be flagged over, with the exception of the rooms, No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9, as marked in the plan of the principal story. The rooms marked 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 34, 35, 36, 40, 41, 42, are not to be arched, but they are to be floored over, and laid with boards 1½ inch in thickness, and the joist are to be 4 inches by 12 inches in depth, laid 13 inches apart; they are to be of the best pine or cypress.

The windows of this story are to be made in revealed frames, 3 feet 8 inches by 8 feet in height, made of the best heart pine. The sash 3 lights in width, by 4 in height, in lights of 12 inches by 22 inches, of the best kind, as described in the basement story. The sills and heads of the windows to be of granite, as described above—the whole finished with inside shutters.

ATTIC STORY.—The attic story walls are to be 18 inches in thickness, and carried up to the square of the building, or 14 feet in height to the ceiling. This story is not to be arched, but roofed with good red cypress or white pine girders and rafters. The rafters to be at least 4 inches by 12 inches at the heel, and 9 inches at the head. The girders and joist 4 inches by 14 inches, to project across the piazzas, and to rest upon a string piece to be laid on the cast iron columns of the piazzas. The roof is to be sheathed with good pine boards 1 inch in thickness, well nailed into the rafters, which are not to be placed at a greater distance apart than 2 feet. There is to be a wooden cornice all round, to project 16 inches from the face of the wall, the top of which is to be covered with lead turned over the gutter pole and continued at least 18 inches under the slate of the roof.

The windows of this story are to be revealed in the frames, 5 feet 8 inches in width by 5 feet 6 in. in height, made of the best heart pine—sash 3 lights in width by 4 in height, in lights of 12 by 14 inches, of the best Boston glass; the heads of the windows to be of granite as heretofore described.

the street. This railing is to be painted with three coats of paint.

All the scaffolding and hoisting machinery is to be found by the contractor, and no charge whatever is to be made for jobbing in the final completion of the work in every particular, according to the plans and elevations of the building.

The whole of the workmanship is to be done in the most substantial manner, and of the best materials, and in accordance with the designs and delineations referred to below—and to be completed within a period not exceeding 12 months from the time of the acceptance of the proposals being communicated to the party, whose offer shall have been preferred. Every person making proposals will specify the time within which he will contract to execute the work.

Bonds with sureties satisfactory to the commissioner will be required for the fulfilment of the contract in all particulars.

Payments will be made by the commissioner on behalf of the United States, on account of materials delivered and work executed, in the proportion of three-fourths of the estimated value thereof. The balance to be paid when the work shall have been completed.

The requisite designs and elevations of the building, with a delineation of the several stories, may be seen at the Mint in Philadelphia; at New York, in the hands of the Hon. C. P. White, and at New Orleans in the hands of the commissioner. The several apartments in each story are numerically designated for the ease of reference. To these designations the various numbers above specified have respect.

The proposals are to be sealed and directed to Martin Gordon, Esq. Commissioner of the Branch Mint, New Orleans.

By instructions from the Secretary of Treasury.

SAML. MOORE,
Director M. U.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, April 8, 1835.
April 9—cod7t.

City Commissioners' OFFICE, ON
SASSAFRAS STREET, LA

THE above eligible property is to be leased for a term not exceeding 99 years from the first of May ensuing. Sealed proposals to be received at this office, until 10 o'clock, A. M., on the 10th inst. By order of the Committee, J. A. QUINN, President.

Cast Iron

The New Orleans Mint occupies the site of Fort St. Charles, one of a series of forts in the fortifications erected around New Orleans by the Spanish Governor Carondelet in 1792. The fort was demolished after the Louisiana Purchase, probably about 1817. A park was then established on the site named Jackson Square in honor of the hero of the Battle of New Orleans, who reviewed his troops here before the battle. By an ordinance dated May, 11th, 1835, the city council ceded the site to the United States Government for the erection of a branch mint.

The building was designed by the noted Greek Revivalist Architect, William Strickland and is one of the most important Greek Revival structures in New Orleans. The builders were John Mitchell and Benjamin F. Fox. In the 1850's the building was extensively remodeled to make it as fireproof as possible, the work being directed by engineer P.G.T. Bearegard, the noted Confederate General. The mint was occupied by the Confederate Government which minted some coins there. At the time of the capture of New Orleans by Federal forces in 1862, William Mumford was hanged tearing down the United States flag.

On Thursday, November 12, 1840 a reporter from the New Orleans daily newspaper, *New Orleans Picayune*, was invited to tour the federal mint establishment bounded by Esplanade, Barracks Street and Bayou Road, formerly known as "Jackson Square", which also immediately fronted the Mississippi River. His pleased recollections were as noted:

"The high state of mechanics, which the complex machinery give evidence of, the extreme cleanliness of the building, and the well arranged order with which the whole process of coining is carried on, are truly admirable. There are at present some twenty-five men employed there, every one of them noiselessly fulfilling his province."

The reporter was to continue in his dissertation an analysis of the operations of each major department within the mint's walls, and he began with the smelting (or melting and refining) department. There, six furnaces were evident, two in operation during his visit. The men employed wore large stuffed gloves that resembled 'boxing gloves', and one of the men, through the use of long tongs, raised the crucible out of a furnace and poured the metal into a cast iron mould. A second man opened the mould, pushed it to a third, and cast the ingot just formed into a receptacle. Doctor Riddell (in charge of the department) presided over the procedure.

The ingots were then assayed and then taken to the rolling room, again placed in a furnace, whereupon a certain heat is attained preparatory to them being rolled. The ingots are then rolled out by machinery to a consistency of a required "breadth and thickness, resembling in shape iron hogshead hoops". Next, in the adjusting room, the strips are adjusted to the proper weight, so that the next machinery can cut out pieces of metal into exact

circular sizes of the designated coins. A mill is then applied where the edge is raised, and the reporter noted here that, “This mill is another evidence of the perfection of machinery”.

After the edge is raised, they were sent to the coining room, where, by machinery also, “they are one after another drawn under the stamping press, where they receive the necessary impression, and come out good and current money of the United States, to which the most scrupulous Bentonian could not object”.

Such was the simplistic description of the operations performed at the mint in the state of Louisiana, and the praise begotten. However, not all was wine and roses in the history of this southern mint, from the day it opened its doors in 1838 to the day it closed them for several years hence in May of 1861. A recollection of its sometimes challenging history during this period is to follow.

The year of 1837

One of three branch mints authorized in 1835, the appropriation for construction and machinery for the New Orleans Mint was set at \$200,000 by Congress. However, by 1837 the cost determined for this mint was going to exceed that amount by \$25,630. Construction began in that latter year, and was under the overall supervision of Martin Gordon, chief engineer.

Within that 1837 year, mint officer staffing was commenced.

On January 4th, Chief Engineer for the construction of the mint, Martin Gordon, was appointed Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, which he declined on the 22nd. And machinist/engineer, James Hope, sent from Philadelphia to oversee machine placement, was appointed Coiner for New Orleans about the same time, but it never occurred. The records do not note if he refused the position. Lastly, James B. Rogers was appointed Melter/Refiner and declined the position on March 27th.

On February 18, 1837, William P. Hort was appointed as Chief Assayer; on March 6th, David Bradford was appointed the Mint's Superintendent on March 6th; Edmund Forstall was appointed Treasurer on March 10th; Rufus Tyler was appointed Chief Coiner on March 22nd, and James Maxwell was appointed Melter/Refiner on April 15th.

By March 5th, the foundation was up and boilers set – this reported by Mr. James Hope, the engineer on site. And since there were to be facilities for the Superintendent and his family to live within the confines of the mint, David Bradford wrote a letter on April 29th, asking further about this since he has a wife and 6 children.

The coining presses for the mint were sent by the Ship *Archer* on July 20th, 1837. However, problems for the spacing for other machinery in the mint confines soon came to the fore. In addition, the machinery arrived with damage from salt water, and the work to clean them took much time.

Nearing what was thought to be the opening of operations at the mint toward the end of the year, problems developed in the placement of machinery. This was first noted to Director Patterson on December 18th, when Supt. Bradford wrote that the Mint's engine was put out of place, and in order for the work to be done, part of a wall and a vault had to be taken down. Coiner Tyler was much disturbed by the mistake.

James Maxwell, the Melter/Refiner had this to add in clarification of the problem in a December 30th letter that will be quoted here in part:

“The engine and machinery had been placed too much to the right of the rolling room and the foundation of the annealing furnace so near the machinery as to interfere with the operation of rolling. By removing the foundation a few feet to the right and taking down a part of the vault intended for the Melter/Refiner, the difficulty was overcome, although the space at present is not more than sufficient to work to advantage. The change I regret to say, will put us back at least 3 weeks”. Maxwell continued on with, “much of the work has been badly done”.

Bradford wrote Patterson with the concern for moving his family into his residence in the mint. He had a wife and six children. He did move in with his family – just wanted to confirm.

Along the same line, it was apparent that Bradford was having some difficulties with the move since he had not been seen at the mint's final construction and machine placement period. So, on November 24th, 1837 Patterson wrote Bradford that he hopes that Bradford is on his way to New Orleans from St. Francisville. He wrote that it was absolutely necessary that he meet the arriving officers and employees coming from the North shortly.

November 27th, - Officers, men, machinery sailed on the barque *Dromo* from Philadelphia to New Orleans.

November 22nd, Philadelphia Coiner Adam Eckfeldt advanced Rufus Tyler (new Coiner at New Orleans) \$300 in salary when he left for New Orleans.

The Year of 1838

In the first couple of months of this year, and on the personal side, it was reported from one of the mint officers that Bradford was generally liked, even though the officers seldom have seen him at the site. On the other hand, it also was evident that personal prob-

lems with the workers, in dealing with the officers, became serious in several instances in the early goings before operations commenced.

For instance, in February of this year, Coiner Tyler complained about his foreman – Washington Jackson – by saying that he disappoints me exceedingly, is conceited, faithless, and incompetent as a foreman. It was also noted by the Melter/Refiner – Maxwell – that he was experiencing some trouble with his men as well.

In March, 3 workmen had been dismissed from their poor behavior. One of the names was Robert Ford (frequent violation of rules), and the 2 others (Anthony Bastian, Henry Helms) were removed because these 2 went to a grog shop (alcohol establishment where mostly rum is served) during business hours. Four others affiliated with these 3 were also dismissed because they had misbehaved, violated rules, and used violent and threatening language – one of them named Mr. Sibley according to the coiner Tyler.

March 7th, - the mint received the first bullion - \$50,000 on this date.

Also in March, M/R Maxwell is concerned about the arches giving way on the basement story of the building. He wrote in letter dated March 1st, that the arches have already settled considerably. An expert check ensued and the arches were thought to be still safe and would not settle anymore.

By April, the machinery was now in its proper place, and according to a letter dated April 5th from Bradford, “the enclosure of the Branch is progressing rapidly to a close”. Samples of bullion was sent to Philadelphia in order to see that the precious metals met the requirements for eventual coining. New Orleans had become the main source of Mexican bullion to coin from. After several confirming assays were taken, the mint was given the go ahead to produce coinage once the dies for coin arrived.

In May, Coiner Rufus Tyler discussed the three lightning rods on the roof of the mint – with concerns. The other officers had requested them to be installed.

Because what was termed the 'sickly season' (Yellow Fever), was approaching for the summer months in the New Orleans environs, most of the officers and many of the workers wished to leave the area for that summer period. Not knowing the cause of the affliction, and that Yellow Fever was deadly, Patterson relented in a letter dated June 21st, and gave approval for leave of absence for the officers and many of the workers. He authorized half pay for those who left.

M/R Maxwell, and Coiner Tyler left for Philadelphia in August but by September both were held up in Cincinnati because Maxwell's wife and Tyler were both ill. This report came from Patterson dated September 27th, 1838. After recovering, and eventually arriving in Philadelphia for a somewhat short stay, Tyler left by way of the Atlantic sea on Novem-

ber 7th, since the Ohio river route could not be taken because of the low water level of that river. Tyler arrived back in New Orleans on the 22nd, only to become ill again on the 24th from the very inclement weather in that southern city, but recovered shortly. Maxwell, on the other hand, took the Ohio river route but had an arduous and tedious journey.

To emphasize the above serious weather conditions, Bradford wrote a letter, dated December 16th, to Patterson that the bad weather had caused dripping of water inside the mint (cold rain, and dense fog), making all unwell including Tyler. But as of that letter date Tyler had recovered.

Coinage 1838

Philadelphia sent 3 pair of dime dies which were received on May 3rd, 1838, and New Orleans had \$50,000 in silver bullion to use. The very first production of coin, which were dimes, was accomplished on May 8th. It was a very small striking as only 30 pieces were struck, whereas 10 of these went into the cornerstone of the new *American Theater* in the city, one went to the Mint Director in Philadelphia, and the remaining were distributed as mementos of the event.

It is also noted that two pair of 1838 dated half dollar dies arrived on May 3rd. But due to a press of business to produce dimes and half dimes, and the Yellow Fever closing of the mint from August 1st thru November 1st, striking of half dollars didn't commence until Rufus decided to try his half dollar press in January of 1839! Since 1839 dies had not yet arrived, he used the out dated dies. Unfortunately, after 10 pieces, a problems developed with the press. Adjustments were made, and a few more were struck. None of these pieces entered circulation, but one piece is known to have gone to his old friend from the *Franklin Institute*, Alexander Bache. **(There is also evidence that the great granddaughter, Frances Parke Lewis Butler, of former U.S. President George Washington received a piece while with her husband, West Point graduate Colonel Edward George Washington Butler, there at the mint.)** And, quarter dollar dies were sent and arrived in May – but never used.

Only dimes were struck this year. By August 1st, 367,434 dimes were struck; the mint was then closed for coinage from August 1st to November 1st; coinage resumed with 35,000 dimes struck in December; and then another 3600 pieces were struck with the 1838 date upon them in January of 1839. This occurred because the dies for 1839 coinage had not yet arrived, and Coiner Tyler felt justified to do this because there was a need for them in commerce. The 1839 dime dies did not arrive until after January 30th. ***We have calculated that 406,064 dime pieces in total were coined for the 1838 year, and our 30 piece difference with other calculations is because we feel the totals from others did not include the 30 pieces struck on May 8th.*** Tyler's press for that denomination broke down soon after 30

were struck so the press was idle for some time until repairs were made to it, and Tyler became ill for a short period during May. By June 10th, Tyler was able to strike 20,000 more pieces of the dime, but the press broke down once again negating production until July. (The *Guide Book of United States Coins* – the Red Book – was to change their figure for that date and mintage to 406,034 in their issue of 2024, down from the 489,034 figure from its previously noted mintage)



1838 New Orleans Dime (author's collection damaged by fire November 8th, 2018)

The very troubled year of 1839

We now come to probably the most difficult and troublesome year in the history of the New Orleans Mint. In only its second year of operations, the mint staff had to deal with a myriad of problems not only amongst themselves, but also with their surrounding environment. These conditions surely contributed to inadequate staffing, especially in mint officer positions, and to the confusing reports sent about coin production.

Within the first quarter of the year, conflicts between Mint Superintendent David Bradford and his officer staff came to the fore. Melter/Refiner Maxwell, Coiner Tyler, and Assayer Hort all wrote letters to the Mint Director in complaint of Bradford's controversial supervision, and a financial shortfall in the records. In May, Director Patterson ordered an investigation by District Attorney Thomas Slidell into the affairs at the mint. The investigation and subsequent report took over three months to complete and ended with the removal of Bradford and also the Mint Treasurer Edmund Forstall. This report is in Newman's Portal RG104, Entry 11, 1839, and consists of many pages beginning 358 – 400.

Part of Slidell's investigation included the question of harmony of the officers with the staff, and one of them was with the coining department's machinist foreman, Edward H. Brown in his professional relationship with the coiner, Tyler. Brown, in his testimony felt that Tyler wasted 2 months in getting what Tyler said the machinery up to par. Tyler had condemned all the machinery, coin presses, rollers, milling machine, etc., and made, to

Brown, mostly unnecessary adjustments. Cleaning of rust from the sea water after shipments was necessary, but the other adjustments were not. Brown said that extra wages had to be paid because of all the extra work. Brown also said that Tyler, and his brother Philos (also employed at the mint briefly at the time) were involved at the mint in using a lathe for the Carrollton Rail Road and would hide this from the assayer (Hort) if he came into the Dept. This, Brown added, also delayed getting the machinery ready.

Mint machinist Joseph Breck Harmstead was also interviewed and concurred with Brown on most of his statements, but was also asked if he felt that Tyler was competent in his position as Coiner. Harmstead answered in the negative, but did feel that he was an intelligent and resourceful individual.

It also needs to be noted that during the period from August to November, another Yellow Fever epidemic was assaulting the city and it's intensity was worse than the year previous. The mint ceased operations on August 1st and, in August and September respectively, Melter/Refiner James Maxwell (August 8th), and Coiner Rufus Tyler (September 8th) succumbed to the disease. (Rufus's wife and their young son also contacted the disease, as well as Bradford's wife, but it is apparent that both wives survived, but it is unknown what happened to Rufus's son) Rufus's older son, William Tyler, also worked at the mint and assisted Rufus when he was ill. William turned, fitted dies, and collars, and cut dies. Rufus's younger brother, Philos, was there in Rufus's family residence in the mint when Rufus died from the fever.

There was a total of nine mint workers who were sickened by Yellow Fever, and at least four of them died from it. John Moody died at sea after he left to return to join his family in Philadelphia on August 10th; Nathan Clark (foreman coining dept) on August 1st; Owen D. Bird (workman) on August 15th; Charles Scheide (workman) on August 17th. While only a skeleton crew remained at the mint, Chief Assayer William Hort was the lone officer aboard and he became the temporary Superintendent until full operations could begin anew. And, Hort sent this interesting letter (dated 15 October 1839 while he was in charge of the closed mint), repeated in part:

“The amount of contingent expenses exceeds that of the present year, because we shall probably have to increase the night guard very shortly, & during the winter. Desperate attempts have been made to burn some of the Southern Cities, & there is evidence that a gang of incendiaries have reached this city from Mobile, which they have nearly destroyed. Great alarm exists here, the guards are every where doubled.”

Whether Hort received this extra contingent funds is not evident in the records.

Employee Sam McNamee and children on December 5th, set out for New Orleans and asked for payment of passage back to the city. They sold their furniture and left their house back in Philadelphia. Patterson allowed them \$115 to be paid back. Apparently, the money McNamee was sending to his wife (\$90 on time, \$20 another) never arrived. Brad-

ford said McNamee would pay it back through him and to Patterson, and said McNamee has always acted honorably.

Former employee Johnson was fired by Rufus Tyler back in 1838, but wants to be re-installed and wrote letter to Patterson early in the year, saying that he thought Patterson was in favor of his reinstatement because of his dedication in staying at the mint during the Yellow Fever of 1838. Patterson said that he was misunderstood and did not support re-statement, and Johnson was never reinstated.

The deceased, and removed officers had to be replaced. In September both the Superintendent and Mint Treasurer positions had new faces, Supt. Joseph M. Kennedy and Treasurer Horace C. Cammack. It took even longer to replace the Melter/Refiner and Coiner positions because both gentlemen had either a pressing family issue, or was incommunicado in another state. The new Coiner, Philos Blake Tyler (Rufus's brother, who also contacted Yellow Fever late September but recovered), began his duties about November 22nd, and the new Melter/Refiner, John Leonard Riddell (out of touch in Texas before this) didn't start his duties until December 9th. A Mr. Edward P. Trastour was first considered for the position to replace Maxwell before Riddell was considered, but Trastour was found not to be an acceptable candidate. Thus, from August 1st through almost the end of November 1839 there was no coinage produced at the New Orleans Mint. However, Coiner Philos Tyler went ahead and struck 50,000 dimes and delivered them by December 5th, and did so illegally. Regulations stated that there had to be a Melter/Refiner on board for operations to commence, but Riddell didn't take over his department until that Dec. 9th date. Superintendent Kennedy explained that this happened because Tyler found some coin strips in the department left over from his deceased brother Rufus, and the striking of the dimes had been allowed per his approval. Director Patterson didn't like the procedure, and said it was against anything he would have suggested, but saw some of the reasoning behind it – press of business to take care of depositors.

1839 New Orleans Quarter Eagle (courtesy of Heritage Auctions)



Superintendent David Bradford concerning closing of mint.

U S B Mint New Orleans
August 17th 1839.

Sir,

I have to inform you that on the first of this month ^{Nathan Clark =} the foreman of the Coining department in this B. Mint, died with the yellow fever; that since then nine others of the men have been attacked, one of whom, M^r. Bird, died on the 15th inst. and one, M^r. Shide, is expected every moment to die, four are convalescent, three left for Philadelphia upwards of a week ago, and M^r. Maxwell and M^r. Tyler are sick; and it is the opinion of the Physicians that it will not be safe to attempt to resume the operations of this Branch Mint before the first of November. On the 5th inst. my wife had an attack of fever which left her so as to enable me to remove her on the 11th to the neighborhood of St. Francisville, where I left her on the 14th and returned here on the 15th and found the operations completely suspended. I have advised the men who have escaped the fever to leave town instantly as I shall do myself tomorrow. The Treasurer, Assayer and one of the Clerks will in my absence transact any business that will require to be done.

Since writing the above I have attended the funeral of M^r. Shide, who has left a wife and children now in Philad^a. I have had the men paid off to date and directed the Mintage & Coining operations to be suspended from date to first of November next. I remain
Y^r. faithful servant
David Bradford Sup^t.

1839 Coinage

On March 29th, Bradford wrote Patterson concerning what to do with the old half dollar dies of 1838. He repeated the fact that Patterson said not to use them, and that he asked Tyler if they should send them back, but Tyler said that it wouldn't be worth the effort. Bradford asked for directions on what to do with them. He also announced that the half dollar press was now functional and doing well. Also the quarter eagle dies (2 pair) arrived on this date.

Bradford wrote Patterson on June 13th, that they had defaced all the 1838 dies, in-

cluding an obverse die of the Large Cent dated 1836 inadvertently sent to New Orleans. Also, stated that reverse dies of some denominations were reserved for future use.

Because of all the challenges the mint had to face in 1839, it almost becomes understandable as to why the records for the coinage of this year are quite confusing. In addition, through his own admission, Supt Bradford said that the inquiry into the affairs at the mint took him away from doing some of his monthly reports and answering some correspondence from the Director.

In putting the mintage numbers together, one has to also come to terms with the fact that for the first two years of operation, the Philadelphia Mint did not provide dies for New Orleans coinage until after the end of January of the succeeding year. This forced the New Orleans Mint, trying to meet the immediate demands from the public for the dime and half dime, and not wait for dies to arrive for the next year. So the mint staff used reserved, and still usable, obverse dies (for the dime and half dime that harbored the previous year's date). Mint Superintendent Joseph Kennedy even admitted that they were using the previous year's dies in a letter to Mint Director Patterson dated January 30th, 1840. Officials added these January mintages in their final yearly count reports which confused the actual totals for the years of 1838 and 1839. Though frowned upon, this unlawful procedure was 'legitimized' by the Mint's Coiners and Superintendents, and eventually the Mint Director himself came around to accept what had happened. But the Director did assure the administrative staff at this southern mint that dies would be received from Philadelphia before the first of the next year, and this was done (*for the most part*) from the 1841 year forward.

Final concise figures for the mintages of coin for both the 1838 year and the 1839th have bounced around amongst the several researchers who have examined the National Archive records and gave their estimates to be posted in various numismatic works. The authors of this treatise have done their own in-depth research and have come up with these figures: New Orleans Half Dime of 1839 – 1,100,000 pieces

New Orleans Dime of 1839 – 1,288,000 pieces

(Both of these figures have been accepted into the Guide Book of United States Coins)

The New Orleans Mint sent 62 dimes, 77 half dimes, and 11 halves for the Annual Assay for 1839 coinage – from coins struck between February 1839 to May of 1839.

In 1839 it was reported that New Orleans half dimes were passing at 6 and ¼ cents in the Havana, Cuba market.

Rufus Tyler earlier in the 1839 year, stated that the Half Dollar press in operation, had an accident – socket in triangle is cracked and oil is coming through.

Rufus was proud to announce on May 24th, 1839 that his small press struck 66,000 coins in 11 hours and 2 minutes.

Rufus stated that he had coined \$20,000 in gold coin and not one planchet needed adjustment. This he felt was because of his improvement in punching them.

New Orleans had become the main source of Mexican bullion to coin from.

In July and August of this year, New Orleans local newspapers complained about the efficiency, and apparent corruption going on within its walls. One rumor began that the silver bullion was being debased, and that Thomas Slidell, the United States District Attorney, had, “closed every door, affixed his seal, and taken possession of the keys”. In fact, the rumors were blown out of proportion, as it was found, by the Mint Superintendent and his officers, that there was a defalcation in the Treasurer’s Office of some \$200, and Slidell was called in to assist in the investigation. However, there was also discord in the mint between Superintendent David Bradford and his officers, which combined with a covering up of records, that it was decided that Bradford was to be replaced before the end of the year. The only closing of the mint occurred when the yellow fever epidemic became widespread.

In September, Assayer William Hort wrote a letter to Patterson a bit in complaint that his fellow officers who are mostly from the Northern States had to leave the mint because of the Yellow Fever. He felt that, “if Southern men had held the office they would have stayed and operations could have continued.”

While finishing up this year, we discovered some discrepancies in the reported mintages for the New Orleans Quarter Eagle, and accomplished a thorough research to determine what is the true figure struck.

*A final recapitulation of the exact figures for the 1839 O Quarter Eagle is a total of 23,346 pieces versus 17,781 for the Red Book – a difference of 5,565 pieces. These are the strikings previously noted as 9,396 pieces struck in December of 1839, and 14,000 pieces struck in March of 1840 since no 1840 dies had yet arrived (all pieces were dated 1839 from a reserved die of that year). We are publishing these figures, and the sources, in our December 2023 column in *The Numismatist*.*

One final discussion should be noted here for 1839 from Director Patterson in his final report to the President in his *Director of the Mint Report*:

“The efficiency of this branch of the mint has been greatly reduced during the year, by causes which are deeply to be deplored. First, disagreements arose among the officers, which ended in mutual denunciations, and rendered an investigation necessary as to the characters of those implicated, and the state of the institution generally. The task was committed to the United States district attorney at New Orleans, and was executed with ability and impartiality. The result showed, that although there was no reason for suspecting the integrity of any of the officers, the condition of things at the mint was such as to require

painful measures of reform, which the Government did not hesitate to apply. Scarcely was this investigation ended, before the fatal epidemic, to which New Orleans is subject, made its appearance at the mint, and rendered an entire suspension of its operations absolutely necessary. The melter and refiner, and the coiner, both officers of great merit, fell at their posts, victims to the disease; and four of the workmen also lost their lives, which scarcely one escaped without an attack.

Under these circumstances, it cannot be matter of surprise that so little has yet been accomplished at the New Orleans Mint. The prospects for the future however, are more cheering. The institution has now an able corps of officers, all of whom are acclimated, as are also nearly all the workmen. There is reason therefore to believe that the operations of the mint may go on without further interruption, and that the just expectations of the public with regard to it may be no longer disappointed.”



The new Superintendent Joseph M. Kennedy

The year of 1840

It seems some of the troubles at the New Orleans Mint continued into this year, as the following letters back and forth between the officials at this mint and with the Director at the Philadelphia Mint attests. And now, the New Orleans Mint has a new Superintendent by the name of Joseph M. Kennedy.

March 4th 1840 – A question from the Mint on how many workers should be allocated for each department. Patterson answered with one for the Assayer, five for Melter/Refiner, and 14 for the Coiner. A total of 20 workers approved, though working between departments was allowed.

March 21, 1840 – Patterson wrote Levi Woodbury (Secretary of the Treasury) that some conflicts between officers has again arisen, at least between Assayer Hort and Coiner

Tyler. Patterson thinks Hort, remaining officer of the 'old guard' as he says, was probably the instigator of the early personnel problems at the mint, and did not consider not retaining him. Did not because "he is a man of ability in his dept".

March 24, 1840 – Patterson asked Kennedy to assure him that Coiner Tyler is doing his job sufficiently as there has been talk against him. He asks that his inquiry be kept private, for if this check by you gets to be known your institution could be destroyed as it almost was just a few months ago.

April 12, 1840 – Kennedy answers Patterson and said that he has always found Tyler attentive to his duties. He has been able to keep up with the ingots, except in just 1 or 2 instances. Some of the ingots were tainted with antimony causing some delay since some coinage was effected by it. He finds harmony in his mint with the officers and was quite surprised by Patterson's letter that inquired as to the integrity of his officers, especially Tyler, when presented by the Treasury Secretary.

April 18th, 1840 – Philos Tyler reports that large pieces of iron metal in some of his ingots fractured several of his dies – the ½ dollar, dime and ½ dime. Ingots were sent back to M/R for refining.

In May, two former employees in the Melter/Refiner department, who were fired by Riddell, Peter S. Levich, and Erwald Ernst, wrote Patterson trying to be reinstated. Ernst in his letter of May 17th, said that Riddell fired him with no explanation. In a response to Supt. Kennedy, Patterson felt that the letters were legit, and was concerned that it would look bad against Riddell's character. Riddell added that Kennedy needed to investigate these firings and take more of a part in the decision to keep or fire an individual. In the interim, both complaints made it to one of the local papers, *The New Orleans Sun*, where the paper felt that the statements should not go undoubted. However, an accompanying investigation by the Mint Treasurer, Cammack, found that Riddell's accounts were satisfactory after the accusation that they were not, and it looks as if Riddell also weathered the accusations by the two fired employees, who were not reinstated.

It was reported in June that gold coinage was not accomplished for most of the beginning of the year because the gold ingots coming from the M/R were too brittle. Riddle was blaming Tyler for annealing the metal at too high a temperature, so there developed quite a dispute between the two.

Within this same letter, it was reported that Riddell, his brother (foreman of the M/R dept), and another gentleman, went to a removed former employee's home and beat him, name of McCarthy, severely for accusations that McCarthy had made against Riddell. The police were called and Riddell and his associates were arrested for assault and battery.

Riddell wrote Patterson on June 8th, with this caveat, "If I knew how much time he

had to devote to Melter/Refiner before hand, I would have declined the office.” But he still wished to make it a success nonetheless. In this same letter Riddell felt it necessary to explain the melting process followed in his department. Additionally, responded to the McCarthy issue by saying the man has slandered him and created libel against him because he would not promote him.

A letter (dated June 16th) from Patterson to Kennedy asking if operations had been suspended because of the Riddle affair, and Kennedy responded in the negative. Patterson stresses that Kennedy needs to find the truth concerning this incident because its implications would give a poor face to your institution.

On June 18th, Patterson to Kennedy, He does not like what is going with Riddell and will report it to the President, and a decision could be made for his removal. Then he asks Kennedy if he knows of a suitable local replacement.

In a bit of a delayed letter of June 19th, Kennedy letter to Patterson said that he felt that Levich had no cause to complain of his dismissal.

In a June 24th letter to Patterson (?) from Kennedy that said that McCarthy also made a civil suit case against Riddell by claiming damages of \$5,000, but that trial would not come up until 7 or 8 months hence. The first trial would remain as an Assault and Battery charge.

On June 28, Kennedy reported that Riddell, his brother, and another gentleman (Nixon?) were found guilty, but the third accomplice – Nixon – was sentenced to pay costs. Riddell and his brother posted bail but wouldn't hear their sentence until after the impending civil suit against them. Kennedy also told Riddell that he is not Melter/Refiner and Coiner, and that to do only his duties and not dictate to Tyler what he should do with the gold ingots supplied him for coinage. He also said that 'we' do not get along as harmonious as family here at the mint. Feels if all is not settled, he would consider to resign his position – he wrote this to Patterson.

On June 28th, Riddell further explains his conflict with McCarthy to Patterson as he said that he had lost confidence in his work. McCarthy had called Riddell dishonest and incompetent. Riddell claimed McCarthy stole bullion and used it for his private use. In the interim, McCarthy had informed the local press of his feelings, which incensed Riddell. McCarthy also accused Riddell of killing his own wife by his bad medical treatment.

Riddell continued with his defense, by saying that McCarthy had gone to Medical College which had bestowed upon him the title of Doctor of Medicine, which Riddell felt gave him a measure of respectability for his accusations. Riddell said that McCarthy's intention was by any means in his power to disgrace and drive him out of New Orleans.

Riddell also claimed he used no weapons when he confronted McCarthy and the 2 men with him played no part. He claimed his conduct, which was not violent, though he did admit that he had used the flat of his hand in some manner that he did not specify. He had also claimed that his actions had been approved by Kennedy & Cammack (later denied by both), because of the circumstances and public feelings. Yet, the archive records fail to fully describe the incident at this time.

By a July 7th letter to Riddell from Kennedy it seems the difficulty between Riddell and Tyler was still ongoing since the bad gold ingots were still being delivered to Coiner Tyler. Kennedy stresses strongly that there will be harmony between both in the near future. Kennedy also included in this letter charges against Riddell brought forth from the Secretary of the Treasury which noted,

“You have unnecessarily quarreled with, and discharged your workmen – that you have lost the regard of your fellow officers, and that you have not succeeded in preserving in the Mint the harmony and good feeling so much to be desired, and without which the operations of the Mint might be retarded and the situation of the other officers rendered unpleasant. “

There were a couple other notes in this letter from the Secretary, but they are already noted in this treatise.

However, a July 12th letter from Kennedy to Patterson hints at the fact he was thinking of removing Riddell but could not find anyone suitable to do the work. The letter did state that the gold ingots have improved and Tyler is able to use them to strike coin. Kennedy ends his letter with a side issue by asking, “if it is not essential that the Superintendent lives in the mint, since he does not reside there presently? (Cammack and his family were presently residing in the place in the mint that would have been for a Superintendent)

July 13th, Cammack announced that the sickly season not as evident as last year – maybe because of low water level.

Kennedy in another letter in July to Patterson repeats his concern that all the officers of the mint reside therein except himself, and is questioning as to why he cannot be accommodated at this time.

August of 1840 – work was suspended because repairs had to be done, especially to one of the presses – possibly 3-4 weeks. Tyler and Riddell were asked to come to the Philadelphia Mint in the interim. Only Riddell was able to leave. Work was to resume around October 1st. Tyler had asked if his brother, Nelson Tyler, back in the family machine shop in Springfield, Massachusetts could come to the Orleans Mint in his place for about 20 days to learn what he could and assist. Nelson was the foreman in the Springfield shop in which

Philos still had ties. But the request was denied for his travel expenses because no money could be provided for his transportation. (However, a local Springfield, Mass. paper did announce that Nelson had come to New Orleans back on November 27th, 1839 – to assist Philos in his first establishment as Coiner at New Orleans?) Patterson suggested to Tyler that repairs suggested from Philadelphia could be implemented instead. That same day, Patterson informed Nelson Tyler that he could be employed temporarily in the Orleans mint, but travel would not be reimbursed. In the end, Philos stayed in New Orleans to supervise the repairs himself.

On August 30th, plans for the construction of stronger vaults submitted. Present vaults considered unsecured. Walls were a brick and a half thick, and built with common brick and mortar. An architect examined the vaults lately and remarked that he could cut through any of these in 2 hours time with a jack knife.

September 16th letter Patterson to Woodbury said that Riddell started his return to New Orleans, but would stop in Washington first to see the Secretary. Patterson said he was pleased with Riddell's visit and was confident in his return to New Orleans.

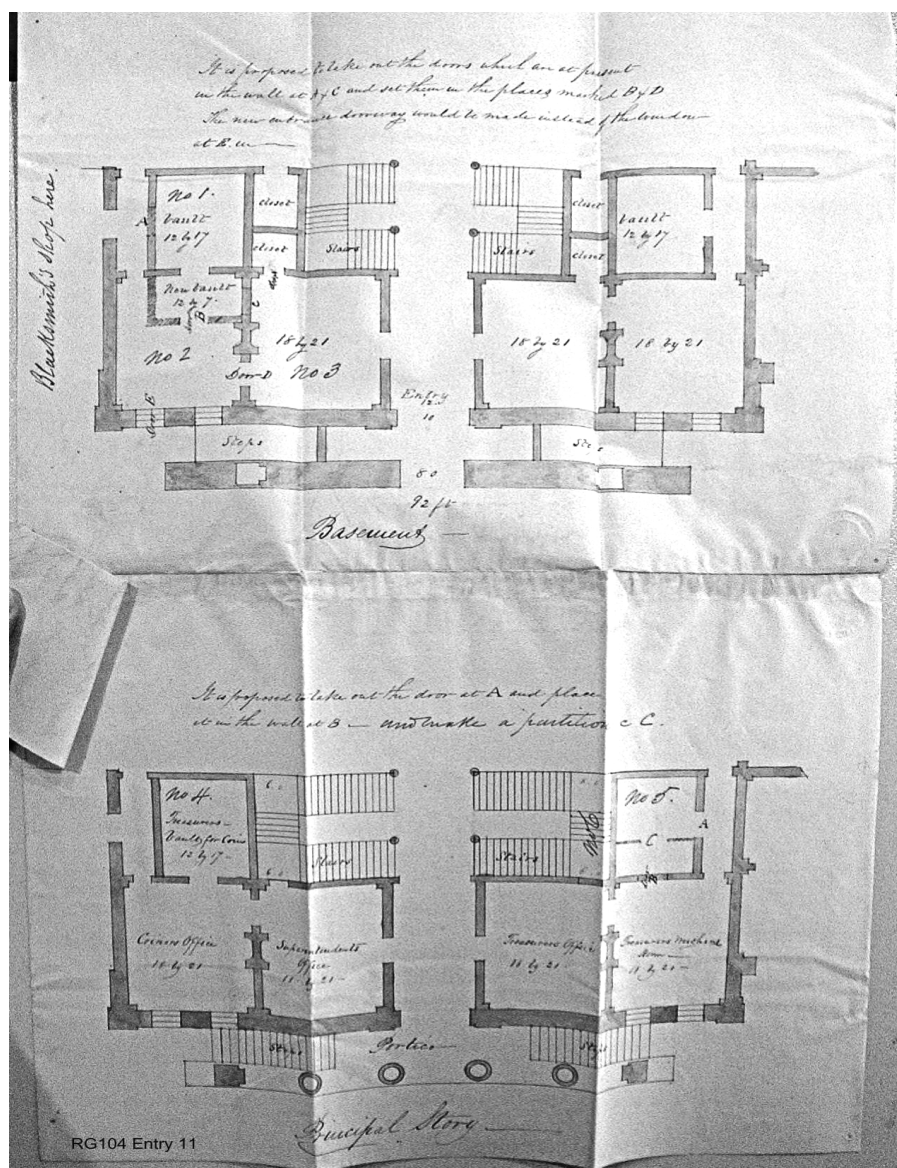
Renewed operations were now expected around October 4th when Riddell was expected back, but he was delayed for 2 more weeks because of low water level of the Ohio River.

November 13th, Kennedy to Patterson, explained that the reason that he didn't get the needed financial estimates for 1841 on time was that Riddell didn't arrive back until the middle of October, and was concerned about resuming operations. Also, that Kennedy was ill at the time. \$52,000 was asked for expenses for the year of 1841.

After Riddell's arrival, he claimed travel expenses of \$375 on December 14th, to Patterson but it was determined to be too high so the original bill was sent to Woodbury to reassess.

December 26th, Patterson asked Secretary Woodbury about the request from the department about sending Eagle dies to New Orleans for coinage – since that had not yet received any for coinage since their beginning in 1838. Patterson said that gold deposits have been small there so 1/2 eagles and 1/4 eagles have been more efficient, but would send eagle dies if ordered. Eagle die(s) were sent, but only 2500 pieces were coined for the year of 1841 making this piece a rarity. **However, it is our conclusion that at least 2,000 more pieces of the 1841-O Eagle should be added to the formerly noted production of 2,500 pieces, bringing the total to 4,500. Evidence shows that the 2,000 struck in April and June of 1842 had to be dated 1841. Mint Director Patterson himself announced the mintage as 4,500 pieces, and he looks to be correct. (see further on this topic in the 1842 Coinage section, which may add even 2000 more to this mintage total)**

Philos Tyler, Coiner at New Orleans Mint late 1839 to 1847.



Schematic Floor Plan 1840

Coinage 1840

January 30th, Kennedy wrote Patterson that they just received one set of dime and ½ dime dies, but was disappointed that other denominations dies didn't come at the same time. He wrote that he had a great amount of bullion on hand and demand for coin. So in consultation with the District Attorney, instead of suspending operations, went ahead and kept the Coiner at work to use the old dies as were fit for use. (This letter alone explains the production of 110,000 ½ dime pieces (also dated 1839) struck in January of 1840).

Woodbury letter of February 21st, said that there was dissatisfaction concerning the small amount of coinage since newly appointed officers have started. He directed Patterson to inquire. Patterson reported that he has better expectations of more coinage, but Woodbury questioned the qualifications and general fitness of Coiner Tyler (it is apparent from other correspondence that Woodbury had reservations about Tyler for quite some time). Three days later, Patterson responded to Woodbury that the majority of problems occurred toward the end of that troublesome year of 1839.

On March 3rd, Tyler coined a few half eagles in the dime press by turning it by hand, but he admitted the quarter dollar press would be the more appropriate press for the denomination. And, in May of this year the first New Orleans quarter dollars were struck.

April 1 – Kennedy letter first says that the March 1840 report is included with the letter – and he just received 3 boxes of dies (1840 dated). The 3rd box had quarter-eagle dies. (Entry 11, 1840, page 112) ***This letter proves that the 14,000 quarter eagles struck in March of 1840 were actually dated 1839, since the 1840 dies arrived just after March.***

April 12 – Kennedy confirms what is in the 3 boxes of dies received April 1st, and the 3rd box contained quarter-eagle dies. (Entry 11, 1840, page 115)

Letter, August 22nd, - Woodbury to Kennedy – said that the small depositors were complaining their returns after deposit took longer than large depositors. Woodbury said to pay depositors in the order received – no matter what size deposit.

The late Coiner, Rufus Tyler, had invented a counting board and this board could count 400 quarters at a time, 500 dimes, 800 half dimes. In one hour, one man could count 7,000 quarters, 15,000 dimes, and 20,000 half dimes. Because this method was so efficient the U.S. Congress authorized a \$500 purchase of the patent rights from the heirs of Rufus. It was later noted in the records that brother, new Coiner Philos Tyler now held the patent for the board, and it was assumed he sold the rights for same to the government.

December 1st, 2nd and 3rd, Patterson reported sending extra 1840 dated dies: 1 pair 1/2 dollar; 1 pair 1/4 dollar; 1 pair 1/2 dime; 2 tail 1/2 dollar – all for 1840. And last-

ly reported that 1841 dated dies are in preparation.

On December 18th, Patterson sent a reminder to not forget to report to him the destruction of 1840 dies, by his former directives of June 4th, 1839, and January 16th, 1840. However, New Orleans Mint officials did not fully comply because a few 1840, especially obverse dated dies, were kept in reserve for use the next calendar year. And, they were used in violation of the directives, because first, the new year's dies didn't arrive until after January 1841 and the coins were needed in commerce.

December 19th, 20th, Patterson sent 1841 dated dies (through the Secretary): 1 head 1/2 dollar; 1 head 1/4 dollar; 1 head 1/2 eagle; 1 head dime; 1 head 1/2 dime. All for 1841. The dies were mailed from the Secretary on the 21st.

The Year of 1841

It seems a rumor developed that Superintendent Kennedy would be removed from his position, as a recommendation was forwarded to Patterson on a replacement in the name of Daniel Dana by a Mr. Theodore Clapp on February 4th. Nothing came of this, and Kennedy held onto his position at the mint.

May 22nd, Patterson to Cammack wrote concerning late payments to depositors. Receipts for deposits have been lost or forgotten in New Orleans. Suggested making copies of all receipts like is done in Philadelphia. Also, he told New Orleans to go ahead and melt and recoin counterfeit coin – said there is probably enough silver in them to use – then recanted his order because it would be different with coin sent to the Sub Treasury.

Coiner Philos Tyler left the mint from the middle of August to the middle of October because of the threat of Yellow Fever, and went north. However, his departure back was delayed which will be noted later in this treatise.

In September, the arches of the mint were failing and pushing out the walls front and back of the mint. The arches support the floors and were sinking and cracked. They were not put together with iron rods when first built. Suggestion was made to put in 1- 1/2 diameter rods to help support - \$1600 estimate. This was eventually done to the north wing and the south wing was suggested to be strengthened the same way. The work was accomplished by the end of the month.

On September 21st, Cammack reported that three workmen were sick from Yellow Fever, also one servant of Coiner Tyler, and 2 servants of his own. He added that there was a significant Yellow Fever increase, and his 12 year old daughter also contacted the affliction but fortunately was recovering. Cammack sent the following list of who was affected

at the mint not all full names were included:

Margaret – Irish woman, servant in Coiner's dwelling.

Stafford – laborer in Coining department.

Samuel Riddell – brother of M/R – foreman of Dept.

John – Irishman, Treasury Department.

Louise – Swiss or French woman, nurse

Young – laborer in Coining Department.

Mrs. Young – residing in Coiner's dwelling.

Daily – watchman.

Anthony – porter – Sub Treasury.

All were sleeping at the time in the Mint except for the watchman.

1841 New
Orleans Eagle



October 6th, Philos was in Washington, and on the 23rd of September he was required to stay there and give evidence on a criminal case. Philos asked Patterson, that since he is expected back in New Orleans by November 1st, could he give some influence to the magistrate to be certain that he be released from his responsibility to return on time. He would be fined \$500 if he did not appear in court on the last Monday in October.

On October 7th, Patterson plead Tyler's case to the Secretary to use his influence because, according to Tyler, he had already given affidavit of all he knows.

October 11th, U. S. Attorney for D. C., P. R. Fendall responded to Patterson that Tyler's expertise on coinage testimony was essential in establishing the authenticity of coinage (\$200 worth) in a pending criminal case. The district attorney said he was willing to delay or have Tyler give a full affidavit sooner.

October 14th, Tyler was asked to stay until October 25th and give his testimony there and delay his departure until then. He was promised that his delay would be effected as little as possible.

November 20th, Cammack reported a plethora of counterfeit Mexican dollars in circulation and some coming from depositors and banks to be melted for coinage. Most of them were being discovered beforehand.

December 10th, Tyler reported to Patterson that he and his family didn't arrive back to New Orleans until November 30th after a 20 day journey. He said that they escaped being snagged or blown up on the river that was very low. They were thankful that they arrived in good health. Because of his late arrival back, there was little coinage, but Treasurer Cammack said there was enough coin for depositors, and the banks had sufficient stock on hand.

December 10th, Tyler asks Patterson for his view of the matter of his last offer of

\$2,000 for the counting board, for which he holds the patent.(His brother Rufus had invented it, and was explained earlier in this treatise)

December 29th, Tyler wrote a confidential letter to Patterson to say that,

“Kennedy called on me this morning, and said he had seen a letter from Washington to a gentleman in this city, stating that the President had determined to remove him from office, and his successor was already named. He felt convinced that the source of the information, that the author could not be mistaken, and desired me to write to you, and inquire if you know anything about it, and if you did not, to ask if you could ascertain if such was the case”.

The reason why he didn't ask himself was that he felt extremely delicate about it, and took it as a special favor that Tyler write the letter for him.

Coinage 1841

Eagle dies (one pair – obv and rev) for the first production of this denomination at this mint were sent on January 2nd. This very rare coin, struck to the tune of just 2,500 pieces for the year, had the following production run – 200 in March, 1,000 in April, 500 in May, and 800 in June. (Further research reveals 4,500 pieces, and maybe as many as 6,500 pieces – read on for more information)

Patterson wrote with the complaint that he did not receive the report on coinage for February 1841 until March 23rd.

This mint reserved a pair of quarter eagle dies, dated 1839, and had the above 1840 dies. On March 12th, 1841 they destroyed 2 of the 3 dies (one dated 1839, the other 1840). Thus, New Orleans reserved one pair of 1840 quarter eagle dies for 1841 coinage. This one pair of dies was destroyed April 20th, 1842 and not on February 21, 1841 as Walter Breen said in his work on United States Coinage. This is but another example of the mint not complying with directives to destroy all dies from the previous year, and not to reserve any obverse die for striking the next year. So, since no quarter eagle dies were sent for 1841 coinage, the report from the New Orleans mint of 7,380 produced for the year is incorrect for they would not be dated for that year but be 1840 dated pieces.

There were no gold deposits in June.

The falling off of coinage this year is to the necessity of rebuilding the flues during the closure and narrowness of appropriations has diminished. Mint reopened on November 1st, but no ingots for coiner until November 18th. The flue was 70ft in length and 20 inches square. Also, the Yellow Fever closings every year.

Mint reports \$85,000 in gold coined for the year. 8350 pieces said to have been coined of the half eagle, but 8300 of the pieces were coined in the early part of the year of 1841 but were dated 1840 on the obverse. The 50 piece difference was the report of 50 pieces struck of this denomination in August of the year. Whether they were dated 1841 or not is a matter of conjecture. All 50 pieces could have been dated 1841 (no pieces known to exist) since there was a die pair available, or they could have been dated 1840 on their obverses because the mint had reserved, against regulations, a still usable 1840 obverse die – that should have been destroyed in the first part of this year.

It took until April 1843 that 1 Eagle die, dated 1841, was destroyed.

On the 24th of April, it was reported that one set of dime dies broke after only 140,000 pieces struck – cannot deliver them until new dies arrive.

July 30th – Machinery accident caused less gold to be coined.

A further in-depth study was accomplished to determine the correct mintages of the 1839-1841 quarter eagle which differs significantly from the Red Book and other numismatic periodicals. That study follows:

1839-1841 New Orleans Quarter Eagles Synopsis

A January 11, 1840 letter from Mint Treasurer Cammack stated that coin received by him since November 15th, 1839 was: 16,000 Half Dollars, 50,000 dimes, and 9,396 Quarter Eagles. These denominations, especially the dimes and quarter eagles had to be dated 1839, because no new 1840 dated dies had arrived before this January 11, 1840 letter. More proof of this is to follow from the National Archives. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 26.)

By January 23th, 1840 no new dies for 1840 had arrived. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 26)
January production was listed by Supt Kennedy as 139,000 dimes, 110,000 half dimes, 2,000 half dollars, but no quarter eagles.

February 8th, 1840 – New Orleans received 2 pair dime, 2 pair half dime, 2 pair of half dollar, 1 pair of quarter dollar, and 1 pair of half eagle dies. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 40)

February 12th, 1840 – Director Patterson informed New Orleans these are the dies sent you (he listed them as above) – and there are no quarter eagle dies on the list. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 46)

February 21, 1840 – New Orleans Supt. Kennedy reported that 1 pair of quarter ea-

gle dies (dated 1839) were destroyed (New Orleans had received 2 pair of 1839 dated quarter dies for production that year). However, 1 pair of same (dated 1839) were reserved at that time. Kennedy did say that they would not be used without Patterson's approval. (page 54, Entry 11, year of 1840 – Newman's Numismatic Portal)

February 23rd, 1840 – Kennedy listed to Director Patterson that January's 1840 production was: 130,000 dimes, 110,000 half dimes, 2,000 half dollars, but no quarter eagles. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 59)

February 1840 – only half eagles, half dollars, and half dimes coined.

March 3rd, 1840 – New Orleans Coiner Philos Tyler reported that a large gold deposit was coming and recommends they be coined into quarter eagles, but said no dies for this denomination available. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 68 – bottom of last page)

March 17th, 1840 – Patterson sent 1 pair of quarter eagle dies to New Orleans, but first they had to go through the Treasury Secretary before final shipment. Arrival of this die before the end of March was iffy since it takes about two weeks to arrive, and that would have made it until at least March 31st. They were forwarded from the Treasury on March 20th. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 83, 84)

March 1840 – New Orleans reported that 14,000 quarter eagles were coined this month, which puts it very likely that they were all dated 1839. Dies of 1840 would have been hard pushed to make it before the end of March for striking. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 101)

April 1840 – report said that 8,800 pieces of the quarter eagle were struck, now dated 1840. **(Report put at beginning of April month in Archives)** (Entry 11, 1840, pg 111)

April 1, 1840 – Supt Kennedy reported receipt of 3 boxes of dies that day from the Treasury, and one of those boxes contained quarter eagle dies dated 1840. So the 14,000 quarter eagles said to be struck in March of 1840 had to be dated 1839. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 112)

May 1840 – no gold coinage, but 1 more pair of quarter eagle dies were sent on May 29th – the last dies sent for this denomination for the year of 1840. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 159)

June 1840 – no gold coinage. Page 208 of Entry 11, 1840 *Newman's Portal* confirms this striking. But silver was coined. There was a delay in reporting of receipt of quarter eagle dies but Kennedy did report they had arrived by June 19th. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 183)

July 1840 – report said that 3,400 quarter eagles were struck dated 1840. Page 248 of Entry 11, 1840 *Newman's Portal* confirms this striking.

August 1840 – no quarter eagles struck, but 8,000 half eagles struck. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 286)

September 1840 – no coinage – repairs being made to mint that ceased operations.

October 1840 – no gold coinage, but silver denominations were struck.

November 1840 – report of 14,000 half eagles coined – the only gold – silver coined. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 326)

New Orleans coiner Philos Tyler asked for more 1840 dated dies – half dollar, quarter dollar, and half dimes.

December 1st, 1840 – Director Patterson announced that requested dies were sent to the Treasurer for eventual distribution.

December 18th, 1840 – Patterson says nothing about sending quarter eagle dies for 1841, only other denomination dies. Sent 1 head half dollar, 1 head quarter dollar. On the 19th, then sent 1 head half eagle, 1 head dime, and 1 head half dime. He said these were for 1841. (Entry 11, 1840, pg 183)

December 19th, 1840 – Letter from Patterson seems that he is confused on what date dies were sent to New Orleans. He questioned if the dies he just sent were dated 1841? (Entry 11, 1840, pg 338)

December 1840 – report from this month not in archive records, but it is doubtful if gold was coined since there were problems with the gold ingots being too brittle after processing.

Because there was so many problems with wastage in the Melting/Refining department, most of the correspondence between Philadelphia and New Orleans concerned this issue in the letters up to the end of February 1841. Main reason why no report for December 1840?

January 1841 – only gold half eagles (6,300 – must have been dated 1840) struck as well as half dollars, dimes and half dimes. (This report was misplaced into the May 1841 section of archives – Entry 11, 1841, pg 121)

February 7th, 1841 – Kennedy reports New Orleans is anxiously awaiting dies

February 27th, 1841 – 2 pair of 1840 dated quarter eagle dies destroyed, a 1 pair of quarter eagles dies (dated 1840) reserved. (Entry 11, 1841, pg 59)

February coinage stats misplaced in May 1841 archives – 2000 half eagles, and half dollars and dimes.

March 4th, 1841 – reported that New Orleans had \$36,000 in planchets but no dies for quarter dollar, dime or half dime.

March 30th, 1841 – 1 pair of half dime dies sent.

March 1841 – 200 eagles and half dollar pieces struck. (Entry 11, 1841, pg 12)

April 12th, 1841 – received 1 pair of half dollar, 1 pair quarter dollar, and 2 pair of half dimes dies.

April 1841 – 1000 eagles, and all silver denominations struck. (Entry 11, 1841, pg 129)

May 1841- 500 eagles, and all silver denominations struck. (Entry 11, 1841, pg 123)

June 1841 – 800 eagles, and all silver denominations struck. (Entry 11, 1841, pg 162)

July 1841 – no gold only silver struck. (Entry 11, 1841, pg 182)

August 1841 – this is the questionable month since no quarter eagles nor half eagles are known to exist. However, Patterson had a report, said to be figures from the New Orleans Mint, that notes that 7,380 quarter eagles were struck as well as 50 half eagles. (Entry 11, 1841, pg 190) **Since no 1841 dated quarter eagle dies were ever sent, the 7,380 pieces struck this month had to be dated 1840, since only 1 pair (dated 1840 on its head) was canceled on February 2nd of this year.** There is also a factor here that Coiner Philos Tyler left about August 1st, to first be with his ailing wife in PA., and to remove himself from the fear of contacting Yellow Fever in New Orleans. The coining department was left under the auspices of his foreman. Did Tyler tell the foreman to go ahead and use old dated Quarter eagle dies before he left, since he had suggested the striking of them earlier and that no 1841 dies were available? Half dollars and quarter dollars also struck this month.

September – operations closed for repairs.

October – ditto.

November 1841 – no gold coined, only dimes. (Entry 11, 1841, pg 253)

December 1841 – no gold, only dimes and quarters. (Entry 11, 1842, pg 7)

Thus, a final recapitulation of the exact figures for the 1839 O Quarter Eagle is a total of 23,396 pieces versus 17,781 for the Red Book – a difference of 5,615 pieces. These are the strikings previously noted as 9,396 pieces struck in December of 1839, and 14,000 pieces struck in March of 1840 since no 1840 dies had yet arrived (all pieces were dated 1839 from a reserved die of that year).

A final recapitulation of the exact figures for the 1840 O Quarter Eagle is a total of 19,580 pieces pieces. These figures tabulate from 8,800 pieces struck in April 1840, 3,400 pieces struck in July, and since no 1841 dated quarter eagle dies were ever sent to the New Orleans Mint, the 7,380 pieces reported struck in August of 1841 had to be dated 1840. There was 1 pair of 1840 dated quarter eagle dies left over for this striking. The 19,580 mintage figure differs from the Red Book figure (33,580) by 14,000 pieces.

The Year of 1842

In January, Riddell directed rebuilding of the flues in his department.

January 21st, Kennedy wrote Patterson to say that Tyler requests to, “postpone the destruction of old dies until February, as being not well provided, there are some among them which he wishes to use”. Tyler also requested that 3 pair of dimes and 2 pair of half dimes be sent each month. However, on February 1st, Patterson responds with, “there is no reason to delay the destruction of head dies (having the date upon them). Patterson also said that Tyler's request for monthly dies is unreasonable since each die was lasting long to strike many pieces.

January 21st, same letter as above from Kennedy added that he has very often complained to Riddell of the intervals which have taken place between his deliveries of ingots, and of other delays in his department. Riddell in response said that he had to prepare for a settlement of his operations if called upon and it required him to take time for that. Kennedy said he was dissatisfied with the course to Riddell and needs to correct these delays.

February 14th, Tyler to Kennedy in response to previous letter from Patterson noted that each die pair of the dime, averaged 270,000 pieces and for each pair of half dimes 300,000 pieces. But adds that he justifies the use of old dies because of the press of busi-

ness and that dies wear down.

March 31, 1842, Kennedy to Patterson acknowledging the receipt of more dies for the year and said that the old dies will be destroyed without delay.

April 10, 1842 – Tyler sent die cancellation report, but also reports that Eagle dies of 1841 were 3/8 of an inch too short. This note may give the reason why this date and denomination has such a low reported mintage.

May 15th, Cammack wrote Patterson that he had heard still at this late date, rumors of the change in Superintendency at the mint, but no applicants have been seen worthy. Cammack says that if he seriously thought about it, that he would like to be the Superintendent and keep the same domicile in the mint.

May 16th, Riddell to Patterson of a letter showing a document sent by Coiner Tyler accusing Riddell of abusing a lady and Riddell was arrested for it. The lady later recanted and said that she was not abused so Riddell was released from custody. Have a copy of this letter of accusation in our files, but will repeat some of the facts here. Riddell was accused of assault, beatings, bruising, and mutilation by widow Ann Mark Sheehy at the United States Branch Mint Hotel. She had come to the mint during business hours, and made her claims known to Coiner Tyler. Riddle was known to have some problems with his employees as well.

May 24th, Patterson wrote the Treasury Secretary that Congress for some reason tightening up the purse strings for appropriations for New Orleans mint – especially employee's wages. He asked for assistance with Congress – or otherwise mint will need to cease operations.

May 29th, Tyler to Patterson said that he and his wife become very ill during the summer in New Orleans and supports closing of mint for 3 months starting July 15th. Said that it will save Government thousands of dollars. Later in the letter he discusses improvements in the drawing room which has brought more efficiency and be less labor intensive.

June 11th, Tyler put in one of the local papers that he felt Riddell was innocent of charges brought against him by a woman who claimed Riddell mistreated her. Tyler believed that he was grossly deceived by her visit back in May.

June 12th, Cammack to Patterson that he told Riddell not to publish his conflict with Tyler in the newspapers – and he hadn't seen any (the woman conflict). Tyler was not aware of Riddell's letter to Patterson about the conflict – but Riddell had denied sending anything to Patterson' when confronted by Tyler.

June 14th, Riddell to Patterson that all was well with him and Tyler. Tyler showed Riddell a letter he sent to Patterson and all misunderstandings were now moot.

June 14th, Cammack's leave approved by Kennedy for 2 months during the summer.

June 14th, Kennedy asks for a mint suspension of July 1st to October 1st. Deposits are way down and Tyler requests a leave as well.

June 15th, Tyler wrote Patterson that he will leave during closure months, drop his wife off at St. Louis with friends and go himself to Philadelphia. He says little to do at mint and no prospects for further deposits until Autumn.

July 26th, Riddell remaining at mint, said that with the suspension he can do some things in his department he wouldn't normally have time to do. He also said 2 men left in his department are okay for now even though there is no money to pay them at this time.

August 11th, Cammack has left mint and went to Virginia and intends to visit Patterson in Philadelphia.

August 20th, Letter from Patterson said that Riddell's wastage again too large. He is thinking of investigating Riddell and Kennedy both on this because he wants it solved.

August 29th, Tyler stated (noted by Patterson) that the counting board can count 30,000 pieces of coin per hour by one man, so that he can do as much as 6 men without the board.

September 29th, Kennedy wrote hoping to restart operations on October 3rd. He said that Tyler requests 2 pair of ½ dollar, 3 tail for ¼ dollar, 2 pair of dime, 1 pair of eagle dies. Riddell also requests equipment for start up.

September 29th, to Patterson from Cammack – he arrived back at New Orleans on the 24th – detained by coming down the river. When he arrived, found his family okay, but some servants had the “fever”. He added that the Tyler family had one death, a young girl of some relationship, but he did not elaborate how. He added that a lot of bullion had arrived from England and France. Also, reports no Eagle dies for 1842 and have had one pair of ½ eagles. Most of the gold is deposited for Eagles.

October 5th, Patterson reports counterfeit dimes. He thought at first that a die sent to New Orleans had been stolen, but a check of dies, and their arrival in New Orleans matched. So he thought the counterfeiters had a professional engraver working with them. Because the counterfeits were so well done, Patterson sounded the alarm to his mint officers. Two of the dimes were dated 1842 and had come from Cincinnati. There were no

mintmarks on the dimes, but warned Kennedy the “O” could easily be added.

October 10th, George Lewis, mint employee at Philadelphia, was trying to get a position with Riddell in New Orleans, and Riddell said he would take him in if he had a recommendation – which he did. Even though he had trouble with debts, he was known as a dependable and good worker according to Patterson.

October 23rd. Cammack reports that due to the lack of acids, M/R cannot fully provide the ingots, especially gold, to the depositors. Asks for a delivery of some soonest. Also, reports that William Tyler (late coiner Rufus Tyler's son) has arrived (assume to work at mint).

October 26th, Cammack to Patterson – still looking for Eagle dies. Have only 1 pair dated 1841 in the mint and they are cracked. And, the quarter dollar press is broke or injured in some way and cannot be used.

October 31st. Patterson said that in 2 weeks 10 kegs of cents of \$100 each will be sent at no charge to the New Orleans mint, per your request for the need of this denomination locally. Also, same letter – Philadelphia employee George Lewis, previously mentioned, was reported headed to New Orleans to work in Riddell's department. But to tell him that Patterson had a visit from a woman who claims Lewis owes her \$20.25 and to make sure he still takes care of his outstanding debts. Patterson told Kennedy that he knows personal things like this he and Kennedy should not have to deal with, but made this exception. Lastly, 10 carboys of acids were sent.

November (no date) – a request was made for 2 half dollar tail dies this month because the dies New Orleans had will not last. So two extra tail dies for 1842 Halves were to be sent.

November 3rd, Patterson report of possibly 2 counterfeit quarter dollars with the “O” mintmark. However, both proved legit, but one was light and had a split on the edge. Asked Kennedy to be more aware of this deficiency.

November 3rd, Patterson reports that along with other dies, 1 pair of eagle dies were sent as per need of same. These dies were dated 1842, since Kennedy later asks for 1843 dated dies to arrive before January 1st. These 1842 dated dies arrived on November 8th.

November 4th, Patterson letter to U.S. President Tyler that another quarter has come to his attention, and will be sent to him. This quarter is deficient in feel, weight, color, and the ring. Felt it was a casting, probably in a plastic mould – of a soft alloy, apparently of tin and lead.

November 5th, Cammack to Patterson – our appropriations are not enough to cover expenses and threatens to stop operations after January. Patterson in response said he anticipated the problem and is working on it, but tells Cammack to try and economize for the time being.

November 8th, Patterson reported that Riddell has proposed a 3-cent piece of silver and copper, but Patterson thought it an objectionable coinage.

November 13th, Cammack reported that Tyler has been quite sick the last 3 days (unknown illness) but was better that morning.

November 16th, Kennedy reported that the dies for the quarter lately received consisted of 2 tails, instead of one pair.

November 22nd, Cammack to Patterson – Tyler ill still but did come in to deliver \$42,000 in gold (making \$55,000 in gold since resumption of operations). There has been quite a demand for gold coin. Also, \$53,000 in silver delivered from Tyler.

November 23rd, Patterson to Kennedy – said dies for 1843 have been ordered and hopefully reach New Orleans in time for the beginning of the year.

December 2nd, Looks to be that the kegs of cent coin sent previously was very much needed in the Valley of the Mississippi.

December 3rd, Patterson reported to the Treasury Secretary (?) that by the beginning of this month Tyler was still ill but able to attend to business.

December 10th, Philos to Patterson – to report that he was still not completely recovered from his illness. He was advised to go with his wife to Havana to recover but felt well enough to continue his obligations to the mint. He also noted that his nephew William is very ill and was in the last stages of consumption – said to be sinking fast from the disease.

December 13th – Riddell discharged George Lewis for saying things against his M/R department and by a previous critical letter he wrote about the M/R department at Philadelphia. The informer about the letter was a man of bad reputation and Lewis complained of him, so somehow this was legit enough for Riddell to be rid of Lewis.

December 13th, Tyler to Patterson that he had recovered, but Mrs. Tyler was not well and went aboard the steamship *Alabama* for Havana. The weather had been bad in New Orleans and cold for some time. She went to Havana for the more pleasant atmosphere.



Coinage 1842

In March, 2,800 quarter eagles were struck, as no gold coin was struck in either January or February of this year. The dies for the quarter eagle arrived about 21 January 1842.

Only 1 pair of quarter eagle dies sent for 1842 coinage on December 23rd, 1841. Two pair had been sent for 1840 coinage as one pair was reserved for 1841 coinage that never occurred. Also, 2 heads sent for 1843 coinage in December of 1842.

June – 1,000 Eagles, and 13,000 Half Eagles struck.

July – 600 Half Eagles struck.

September 29 – Cammack to Patterson wrote that, **"We have no Eagle dies for 1842, and have but one pair of half eagle. Most of the gold is deposited for Eagles"** (Entry 11, 1842, page 214.)

October 23 – Cammack to Patterson wrote that, **"All this time too we are without Eagle dies and in fact we have had none since 1841."** (Entry 11, 1842, page 227)

October 26 – Cammack to Patterson wrote that, **"We are anxiously looking for Eagle dies – have only one pair of 1841 in the mint and they are cracked, the quarter dollar press is broke or injured in some way and cannot be used."** (Entry 11, 1842, page 237)

November 3 – Cammack to Patterson wrote that, "We are much inconvenienced and retarded in working gold for the lack of acids – we cannot buy acid here." (Entry 11, 1842, page 243)

October 22 – one pair of 1842 Eagle dies finally sent, and they arrived on November 8th, for 1842 coinage of the Eagle.

Assay coins sent for each month of production for the year of 1842, is in Entry 11, 1842, pages 232 thru 234, which includes 1 Eagle sent on April 26, 1842; one sent on June 11th, 1842, and 2 sent on November 5th, 1842. These four pieces had to have been dated 1841, since dies for the 1842 Eagle did not arrive until November 8th, 1842! **(Thus, the reported 2,500 pieces coined for the 1841 O Eagle is off by some 4,000 pieces, making the total mintage about 6,500 pieces)**

December – the kegs of cents from Philadelphia finally arrived – delayed by previous regulations. The need for copper cents was originally requested by Cabaret Shops in New Orleans. So the first shipment came with ten casks (kegs) with each cask holding 15,000 cents. This total shipment came to 150,000 cents.



1842 New Orleans Quarter Eagle (courtesy Stacks/Bowers auctions)

Pay Roll of Laborers for April						
Name & Occupation	Wages for month	Hours per day	Extra time	amt for extra and	Hours due	
John Brooks, Foreman Coining department	100.00	3.84				100.00
Alfred Barnes in do	84.50	3.25	10 days	2.50		117.00
Peter E. Gerrick " do	84.50	3.25	2 "	6.50		91.00
Sylvester Hunter " do	84.50	3.25	9 "	29.25		113.75
Charles Chandler " do	84.50	3.25	9 "	29.25		113.75
C. O. Lyons " do	78.00	3.00	1 "	3.00		81.00
Erastus Bates " do	78.00	3.00	10 "	30.00		108.00
Lawrence Stafford " do	78.00	3.00	6 "	15.00		96.00
William F. Dorsett " do	78.00	3.00	10 "	30.00		108.00
George Herper " do	71.50	2.75	2 "	5.50		77.00
Richard Kew " do	71.50	2.75	2 "	5.50		77.00
Richard Clarkson " do	65.00	2.50	8 "	20.00		85.00
George Tyler " do	65.00	2.50	6 "	15.00		80.00
John Wintendrop " do	58.50	2.25				58.50
Samuel T. Chadwell, Foreman Melting dept.	84.50	3.25	3 "	9.75		94.25
William Perrow in do	78.00	3.00	3 "	9.00		87.00
John Olden " do	65.00	2.50	3 "	7.50		72.50
John Carver " do	65.00	2.50	3 "	7.50		72.50
Francisco Gomez " do	65.00	2.50	3 "	7.50		72.50
Frederick Peterson in assaying department	78.00	3.00				78.00
						1178.275

Pay roll list of several employees for April of 1842

The Year of 1843

January 3rd, Treasury Secretary Walter Forward suggests that New Orleans confine its coinage to denominations less than one dollar.

January 5th, Patterson to Forward – said that he was pleased to report that New Orleans had stayed with the principal striking of quarters, dimes, and half dimes.

January 9th, Cammack reported that William Tyler's health "is very low and cannot last many hours."

January 13th, William Mason Tyler – 13 years old – son of the late Coiner Rufus Tyler and the nephew of Philos Tyler - died from the affects of consumption (Typhoid). William had worked at the mint, especially when his father was ill in 1839, so William was but nine years of age when he assisted his father. It is unknown if William was still working at the mint after his father's demise in 1839, though William apparently was competent in working some of the operations in the Coining Department even at this early age.

January report for last month (December of 1842) coinage was 17,600 Eagles,

156,000 Half dollars, and 184,000 quarter dollars.

February 1st – Patterson concerned that the Assay coins from the mint hadn't been received yet, and hope they will come in time for the Annual Assay and not be embarrassed if they don't.

February 1st – Cammack to Patterson – banks complaining that the coin output too low, especially in gold. Banks have many English Sovereigns and French gold ready for melting and recoinage. But in the meantime, Riddell is complaining about the difficulty in separating the metal of foreign coin.

February 6th – Cammack to Patterson – said that Tyler is in much of want of gold dies, for which the Superintendent had already written the request.

February 18th, - Riddell said that his nitric acid is exhausted and had not received the requisition of same of December 12th. He is looking for a local source because he has 9264 ounces of South American Doubloons which he cannot make into ingots without the acid, but was only able to get 1 or 2 carboys of the acid locally. The banks as well were loaded with South American Doubloons and wish to have them recoined.

February 20th – A run on banks, some devoid of specie, and might fail. Also, Tyler a want of dies especially of Eagles. Has had to use 1842 dies for striking Eagles in February of 1843. **A total of 35,262 Eagles were struck in February of 1843 all dated 1842 on their obverse. This is an unknown fact, and should be changed in the Red Book for mintages of both the 1842 and 1843 totals.**

A Charles A. Smelser was paid \$28.82 for setting up boilers.

March 4th, Patterson reported to N.O. Mint that amongst the shipment of other dies a pair of Eagle dies had been sent.

March 8th, Cammack reported that Kennedy had returned from his trip up North, and is satisfied that he would retain his Superintendent position.

Same date – Cammack reported the receipt of one pair of eagle dies, and 2 tails for the quarter eagles. This proves even further that the February 1843 mintage of eagles were all dated 1842.

March 17th, Comptroller McCullough wrote Cammack that the accounts of gold and silver bullion for the 4th quarter of 1842 were suspended until a satisfactory explanation was forthcoming on the large amount of wastage in the M/R and Coiner departments for 1842. Though the wastage was within legal limits, it still appeared to be excessive, and until a satisfactory explanation is given, the accounts will remain suspended. A copy of this

letter was also sent to Patterson.

March 18th, John C. Spencer, Secretary of the Treasury, wrote Patterson that he would rather see denominations of silver 50 cents and below be struck, and of gold half and quarter eagles instead of eagles. Felt the smaller denominations would be more convenient for ordinary purposes and less likely to be collected for exportation, particularly the greater eagle.

March 18th, Former employee George Lewis wrote Patterson in desperation for work and is destitute. He said he could explain the situation that occurred in New Orleans to him if he wished, and the weather there was unbearable. Asked for any position, even for only a month, so he and his children will not be sent to the poor house.

March 31st, Comptroller finds everything satisfactory now and will renew the bullion accounts.

April 5th, Cammack to Patterson – from the very beginning of their appointments in 1839 (Kennedy & Cammack) that Kennedy said that he did not want to live in the mint. Cammack said that he would be quite bothered to lose his domicile in the mint for he and his family and lists several advantages for him personally and professionally to stay living there. (Kennedy said that he would not accept the appointment back in 1839 if it meant that he had to live in the mint).

April 18th, Kennedy to Patterson – reasons for his desire to live in the mint and replace Cammack include that he would save \$1200 in housing. And, the distance from his home is too great (being about a mile) that it is impossible for him to be there as often through the day as he would desire. Kennedy said that after he declined the mint residence that Cammack claimed that Kennedy said that the mint was a mere barn, and the grounds were covered with rubbish and manure. He added that Cammack had made the place, by his expenses, one of the most pleasant in the city. Despite all this, Kennedy still wanted to move in but would await the decision from Washington. (Kennedy's request and answer to was delayed, and Cammack kept his residence in the mint, despite the fact that the domicile was designated for the Superintendent, and Cammack and his family remained there for another year and a half) Cammack had arrived at the mint before Kennedy in 1839 and took the place, but only after Kennedy was said to have refused to live there.

May 29th, Kennedy to Patterson – Tyler requested leave of absence because of ill health – it was granted. Brooks (foreman of the Coining Dept) took over.

June 5th, - Cammack to Patterson – Tyler left on the 1st by steamer *Coat Rainbow* to Cincinnati en-route to Philadelphia to see Patterson.

June 5th, Cammack said that Brooks was to take charge of the Coin Dept. He added that there is little demand at the time for dimes and half dimes, and have not coined many. There is more demand for higher denominations. He said gold coins go out as fast as they are made.

June 7th, Kennedy said they have only 1 tail die for the half dollar useful, and there is a strong demand for halves. Asked for more half dies ASAP. (at least one pair)

June 22nd, Tyler saw Patterson and left on the 30th for Springfield and health was better.

March – July, 150,000 copper cents from Philadelphia delivered and disbursed during this period to various individual concerns. (10 kegs worth)

August 1st – Kennedy said that he has been compelled to move his family a short distance from the city due to the health of several city members (Yellow Fever??) Kennedy also would be gone for a short time.

August – from February 9th to February 23 coinage – 39 eagles sent for Assay. **This adds more proof that 35,000+ pieces of the 1842 Eagle were struck in Feb of 1843.**

August 7th – Patterson to Cammack – said he hopes that the mint will remain open during this period – and so far it was.

August 30th – Cammack to Patterson, said they might have to close for 2-3 weeks in September for repairs and clean up – but that decision can't be made until Kennedy returns from his absence, which was supposed to be the next day.

August – Curiously, only 100 Eagles struck for the month, but 40,000 quarter eagles struck.

September 2nd, Kennedy had written Tyler hoping that he would return from the North no later than the 20th.

September 9th, Patterson to Kennedy said that he was pleased that the mint remained open during the summer and was efficient. He added that he had a letter from Cammack to Tyler but Patterson said that Tyler's sister-in-law said that he was no longer in Springfield, so didn't know where to send it. No one knew where he was. Kennedy wrote to Tyler as well and asked that he return to New Orleans sooner. Tyler wrote back to Cammack answering Cammack's request that he hoped that Tyler would be back by September 20th. Tyler said that because of his continued ill health he was going to take the river route.

October 3rd, - Cammack to Patterson – yellow fever not as severe, none of the employees died, but it did hit some of their families being sick. He said he had just returned from St. Louis when he saw Senator Benton. Benton said that the mint should have more workers and would approach Congress.

October 6th, Tyler arrived back in New Orleans in good health, but was disappointed in the condition of the machinery.

October 8th, Cammack to Patterson – Tyler back on the 6th. Cammack says not enough men to continue operations and repairs and improvements. Can we ask Congress for more money for Machinists and machinery?"

October 29th, Cammack to Patterson – said that \$5,000 was put down for a machinist and machinery. He said it was our indirect way to increase their hands.

November 25th, Cammack to Patterson – Riddell has started his book on coins, counterfeits, illustrations, history of them, etc.

December 12th, Cammack to Patterson – all depositors of gold request coin in Eagles, because they were bringing a premium of 1/8 to 1/4 per cent, while 1/2 eagles were at par with silver coins. We are compelled to promise Eagles in payment or lose the depositors. Most of the gold goes to the banks and will part with unless at a premium, so little is seen in circulation.

Coinage of 1843

January – 48,000 halves struck – no gold.

In February, due to the lack of Eagle dies, Tyler delivered to Cammack 12,000 Eagles on February 9th, but they were dated 1842 on their obverse, and on the 23rd he strikes 23,262 more pieces to deliver to Cammack – and these were also dated 1842. It was said in these reports that at least the first 12,000 Eagles were substandard since the die for same was starting to wear.

February 7th, Cammack to Patterson – reported that the coiner has \$50,000 in quarter eagle planchets and coins which cannot be archived until he gets a supply of dies. The coiner (Tyler) intends to alter the size of the eagle die for 1843, if cannot fit the head he has on hand to the tail die that was used with the one of '42 in December. And according to Tyler, "We are now using last year's Eagle dies which are the only ones available for gold". Tyler reported that he had 1 head die for Eagles 1843 – but no tail die to match. The tail sent with this having been used in 1842.

Quarterly Report January thru March and dated March 31st, again notes the production of 1842 Eagles in February of 1843.

Gold coinage for the month of July totaled \$90,000 all in Quarter Eagles.

The Year of 1844

January 1st – Cammack to Patterson – Wastage was more than last year at this time, but more reasonable. Said that Riddell's wastage for silver was lower.

January 6th – Patterson responds to Cammack's desire to have copies of Eckfeldt & Dubois new work on the Manual of Coins. He said that he would notify them.

January 20th - Cammack to Patterson – death of employee, Bertrand (no first name in record, and unable to find him in any obituary in local papers), on the 18th. His place in the mint temporarily filled by a young man who he hopes to be found capable since he comes from a poor family. He adds that he finds that English gold circulates in the country while American gold is hoarded and held at a premium at the banks, who somehow or other have gotten hold of the most of it. Mr. Tyler said again that he wants Eagle dies to be sent until he gets a good supply – so as to be secure from delay for want of dies.

January 25th, Cammack to Patterson – puts in estimate of \$450 for gas lighting in mint versus oil for lighting at night. But he said he might be able to bring it to under \$400. Said that frequent strong winds in New Orleans blow out the gas lighting frequently – leaving the mint completely dark. He said that Kennedy reminded him that in the past gas was rejected, but Cammack said prices have gone down since then.

January 31st – Patterson responds to Kennedy that he had received assay coins package #2 from there, but not #1 and #3. He asks for inquiry.

February 1st, - Patterson reported to Kennedy that he had now received package #1.

February 7th, All packages have now been received.

February 7th – Patterson to Kennedy – put forth his argument against using gas lighting at night at the New Orleans Mint. Said that if it was for operations maybe – but there are no operations at night. If for the watch, he felt that it might be found more expensive than oil or candle. He said he had serious doubts of introducing gas fixtures.

February 13th, Philo to Patterson – addressed the fact that his brother Rufus died

without his wife and children being provided for and were now in Philadelphia in distressing circumstances. Patterson's response is that he suggests to see Spencer (?) to purchase counting board, previously discussed, for \$2500 from the family because it saves in mint costs and is efficient.

March – continuous problems with middle size press reported – lever had to be replaced 3 times. Also large press problems (Half Dollar) failure of the middle block or lower joint. The half dollar press problem suspended coinage for a time, and asks for a new large press.

March 30th, Philos stresses to Kennedy of the need for a new half dollar press and the need for experienced men to oversee its production. He said the February coinage was retarded because of the failure of the lever (renewed 3 times), so we need a reliable press. So, he asked to have one built in Philadelphia where there has been more experience in these matters. It would cost double to make it in New Orleans and would probably not be as reliable. He then proposed that Mr. Brooks be left in charge of his department, while he goes to Philadelphia to supervise the construction of one.

April 3rd, - Kennedy to Patterson – they were in dire need of ½ dollar and Eagle dies and cannot use 1843 dated dies cause they have been canceled. Note: There was a delay in sending of dies until the 1st ones were sent in April of 1844 due to the fact that Engraver Gohbrecht was confined to his bed for 3 months. He worked from time to time, when his strength permitted, but still the Philadelphia staff called on him as little as possible.

April 4th – Cammack to Patterson – the deposits of gold since the 1st have amounted to 14,000 ounces Sovereigns and 7000 French coins – mostly for Eagles, but said they have no eagle dies nor do they have ½ dollar dies.

April 4th – Philos to Patterson – stated his case on going to Philadelphia to supervise the construction of a new large press. His frustration with the breakdown of theirs and the poor quality of material there is in New Orleans in part replacement is more than he can take. He said that his coinage has been principally halves and eagles as of late. This letter also expresses his hard feelings about he and his wife's health while they both live in New Orleans. That is why they endeavor to leave New Orleans each summer during the 'sickly season' (Yellow Fever) and the climate is too hot for them.

April 6th – Kennedy to Patterson – upwards of half a million deposit of gold has arrived, and ingots have already been made in anticipation of the arrival of eagle dies.

April 12th, - dies dated 1843 were not canceled until this date. Notation is a bit confusing on how many eagle dies were actually canceled.

April 12th, Kennedy to Patterson – sent the above cancellation report but also noted his concern that Tyler was quite unhappy and concerned with the climate in New Orleans. He said that there had been visible changes in his appearance in the last 2 months. Kennedy finished with a decision to not add gas fixtures – expense too great.

April 15th – 2 pair of 1844 dated eagle dies sent to New Orleans.

April 17th - Director's Clerk, George Dunning, while in place of Patterson while absent, repeats the notation here for Gohbrecht's illness for delay of dies. But added that Tyler should be made aware of the problem and that he should “take every precaution possible to husband his dies to prevent a stoppage of coinage.”

April 28th, Cammack to Patterson – reported that the mint because of heavy deposits has just about all the foreign gold that is in the city, except for 80 or 100,000 dollars worth. The present rate of exchange will prevent any more from coming. He added that the decision for no gas fixtures is disappointing. The amount of gold bullion on hand concerns him to protect since the mint is not properly lighted at night. He repeated that the wind there continues to put out the oil lamps. He stresses that the mint premises are accessible once someone gets inside the iron railing. He repeated his estimate for gas lighting to change Patterson's opinion.

May 8th – Kennedy to Patterson – reported that they should have asked for ½ dollar tail dies as they now have 4 head dies of ½ dollar, but need more tails.

May 11th, Patterson to Kennedy – said that Tyler should be aware that if he came to Philadelphia that we cannot totally count on availability of tools or workmen when work is being accomplished on a new press. Patterson also noted that he received Riddell's request for a leave of absence during a portion of the summer, and lastly added that he felt confident in Dr. Hort watching over M/R duties if Riddell is allowed to leave.

May 14th, - this letter is a repeat of a letter first sent to Tyler (along with the same to the other mint officers) then sent to Tyler's wife in Philadelphia who forwarded it to Patterson. This letter is quoted in full:

“The ground of the claim appears to be this. That the lot occupied by the Mint building formerly belonged to a family named Dillers. That in 1757 it was taken possession of by the Spanish Government for the erection upon it of a Fort, and that it was so occupied until 1819. That under the laws of Spain, when property thus seized upon by the Government ceased to be occupied by it, it reverted to the original individual proprietor, and that 311 years allowed by the Spanish laws, within which time the claim may be legally made. Such claim is now accordingly made, and suit is brought against the officers of the Mint, in the individual capacities, as the actual occupants of the property. Claim is made out only for the present value, or the property itself but also for back rent.” The letter had a post-

script from Philos Tyler that stated that the officers were preparing a communication on the subject to the Secretary of the Treasury.

May 16th, - Patterson to Kennedy that he said the officers responded correctly to the suit and placed it before the District Attorney. He added that he hopes that it can be made to appear that the officers are not the true party in possession, but mere 'ministers' of the facility.

May 26th, - Cammack to Patterson – reported that deposits during the last month have been larger than ever before. The bulk of the gold was from England and France. A large portion of the gold has gone into circulation in the Upper Country – taking the place of bank notes.

June 19th, Tyler arrived in Philadelphia to supervise the new press construction. Unfortunately for Tyler, the U.S. Congress cut down appropriations for machinery to \$4,000 from \$5,000.

June 24th, Cammack sent back to Philadelphia 4 kegs of cents that were unsold. (15,820 cent pieces)

July 19th, George Bibb, Secretary of the Treasury approved suspension of operations at the mint for August and September.

July 20th. Patterson is making sure that Tyler gets the \$4,000 appropriation money for the new press.

July 20th, Tyler transfers patent for counting board to Government, actual transfer was made 3 days before. Rufus's wife, Elizabeth, daughters Ellen K., Mary B., Lucy and son Patterson Baldwin, all received proceeds from the \$2500 for the patent sale of the counting board.

Philos Tyler also went to Springfield, Massachusetts during the June thru July period to work on the new press. Coining Room Foreman George Eckfeldt was assisting Tyler with parts for his new press while he was in Philadelphia. Cost of new press was exceeding \$4,000 so other funds had to be used.

August 1st, Riddell, Cammack and his family left for the north during the suspension. And Brooks, who was in charge of Coin Dept in absence of Tyler, left and now in charge of Coin Dept. for the period was a Mr. Mitchell – approved by coiner Tyler.

September – Kennedy to Patterson – continued to express his desire to replace Cammack from his dwelling in the mint. Patterson response was that it wasn't his decision.

September 18th, Cammack to Patterson – Cammack said that he had visited the Secretary of the Treasury and he had given his support for Cammack staying where he was in the mint.

October 13th, Cammack to Patterson – said that he arrived back in New Orleans on the 12th. Said that he hadn't seen Kennedy, but Brooks arrived on this date. Mint opened for deposits on the 1st, but they were small. Said that he was sorry to see that the Weigh Master had left the mint and that Kennedy has appointed a brother of his “who is very young and has had no experience whatever in anything like books or accounts, and who for the present at least is totally useless.”

October 23rd, Cammack to Patterson – Kennedy hasn't said a word to him about the mint residence, but did find a letter from him on his desk to ask if we had inquired of the matter to either you or Treasury.

November 11th, Cammack to Kennedy – our machinery is old, requiring many repairs. The whole of the last years' appropriation have used, or will be, in making a new press. We have now only 3 presses and have been in use since operations commenced, and are much worn.

December 3rd, Cammack to Patterson – Kennedy is to leave for Philadelphia on the 4th to visit you. He will be carrying a small parcel of coins struck at New Orleans asked for by Mr. Peale. Amount \$55.20.

December 7th, Cammack to Patterson – informed Patterson that there is a probability of him taking the position of Cashier of the Bank of Louisiana which has become vacant due to the resignation of the former Cashier. But Cammack declined as the previous Cashier was induced to remain. He added that his residence in the mint is now more important to him, though he said he should have taken it for it had a good salary and a large dwelling. He said that he felt that Kennedy knew that Cammack remaining in the mint would affect him materially.

December 17th, Hort (who took over mint during Kennedy's absence) said that 1845 dated dies have arrived – 2 head ½ Eagle, 2 head Eagle and 2 head ½ dollar, and then on the 21st he received 2 head dime, 2 head half dime dies. On the 23rd, 2 pair of ¼ dollar, and 2 head dime dies. On the 28th, 1 pair ½ dollar, 2 pair ¼ dollar, 2 head ½ dime dies.

December 30th, Hort to Patterson – The 17th report in error – it was 2 heads of the ¼ eagle not ½ eagle eagle. And received 1 pair of eagle dies on this date. No quarter eagles were struck in New Orleans in 1845 and none reported to be struck by the mint in later reports. However, pieces of the quarter eagle of this date do exist, so the 4,000 pieces struck later in January of 1846, and no 1846 dated dies had yet been received, the 4,000 had to be

dated 1845.

(Note: it would seem that Patterson was doing his best here to keep New Orleans fully stocked with dies for a change – well almost)

Coinage of 1844

January – only eagles (14,000 pieces) and half dollars (236,000 pieces) coined for the month.

July – only 1,400 half eagles coined for the month and no silver.

October 29th, Cammack to Patterson – sent a suspect 1843 O eagle, a half eagle and quarter dollar suspected of all being counterfeit.

October – Only Eagles were struck.

November 2nd, Patterson informs Kennedy that ½ dollar dies (1844) have somewhat been delayed by an accident impressing the dates with the punches.

(Note: This variety is well known and in the Red Book with a photo of same. Today's value is presently \$800 in Good condition. Philadelphia sent the die anyway, so New Orleans struck them as they were – the date is doubled above the normal date placement is quite obvious. This die was received (1 pair) on November 23rd.)

November 20th, Patterson to Cammack – all 3 coins sent by him were counterfeit. The eagle and ½ eagle were said to be electroplated brass, while the quarter dollar was an embarrassment as it was electroplated in copper with pits, etc.

December – 5,000 ½ eagles; 231,000 halves; 200,000 ½ dimes; and 118,000 eagles.

The Year of 1845

January 1st, - Hort to Patterson – have this day received one pair of ½ dollar, and 2 tail eagle dies. This completes the series, which you say in your last letter have been already forwarded.

January 2nd, Hort to Patterson – he had not received his annual report yet from Brooks, the Acting Coiner in absence of Tyler. Brooks told Hort that Tyler told him not do one until he returned to the mint, so his report was not ready. Hort overruled Tyler's state-

ment and ordered Brooks to submit his report. Hort added a postscript that said, "Mr. Brooks requests me to add, that he will follow my instructions, unless they should be countermanded by higher authority. I am at a loss to comprehend what he means." By January 4th, Brooks submitted his report, however Hort reported on the 4th that Brooks hadn't submitted it to the Treasurer yet by law. Hort says the operations of the mint have been suspended because of all this.

January 3rd, Secretary of Treasury, George Bibb, to Cammack, - said that Treasurer Cammack had to leave his mint personal premises so that Supt Kennedy could move in, and then in a letter – January 4th, 1845 – Bibb allows Kennedy to spend \$300 on new carpet for his residence. Cammack disagreed with Bibb, but had no evidence that he had a right for a residence in the mint.

January 4th, - Kennedy to Patterson – that he was leaving Washington to return to New Orleans by way of Ohio river. He added that had received the Secretary's support of his moving into the mint once he applied.

January 6th, - Hort to Patterson – coiner settlement now in hand he sent it to Philadelphia.

January 6th, - Tyler to Patterson – said that he had informed Kennedy back in December last that he wished that there could be a slight delay in the settlement from his department because of a couple of reasons. However, Kennedy neglected to tell Hort of the request so a conflict between Brooks and Hort resulted. He will talk to Hort about the misunderstanding. Also he said the new machinery is packed and ready for shipment, and he will leave for N.O. by tomorrow the 7th.

January 15th, Patterson to Kennedy – the ship *Alleganhy* sailed with the new machinery on the 11th.

February 1st, - Kennedy to Patterson – Kennedy pleased with Dr. Hort's leadership while in his place. He also announced the new press had arrived. He then added that they wished to move the machine shop to the upper story. The plan could not be carried out without the taking down of one of the walls from the top. Tyler was to have an examination made from an architect to determine that it would not effect the solidity of the building.

And lastly, Kennedy said that Cammack was to give him possession of his apartments (in the mint) in 10 to 12 days.

February 7th, Unknown writer or recipient – letter said that Cammack had originally received the dwelling in the mint when they (Kennedy & Cammack) both agreed between them that it was okay. However, times had changed and Kennedy felt that it was his right and responsibility to be in the mint more often, so he pursued the matter to replace Cam-

mack with he and his family. Kennedy said that Cammack was disappointed that there wasn't a hearing on the matter.

February 8th, Kennedy to Patterson – wrote that he was a bit upset that the moving out of Cammack was taking longer than he announced and that he had already had given notice of the impending vacancy of his previous home. Kennedy felt that the delay was Cammack's attempt to defeat his getting the residence in the mint. He also felt that Cammack, awaiting a new administration in Washington, might feel that the new one might come to his side on this matter, and wants Patterson to be aware of this.

February 18th, Patterson to Acting Secretary of Treasury, McClintock Young – that he had received from the U.S. Attorney of New Orleans that counterfeit gold coins, struck at New Orleans were recently found in circulation. However, the suspect could have been a mint employee fired in April last.

March 1st, Hort took over for Kennedy in his absence.

March 7th, - Kennedy to Patterson – he went to Washington to "defeat" two applications for his office, and apologized to Patterson for not informing him. He was satisfied with his efforts.

March 10th, - Cammack to Patterson – said that applications have been made to receive dimes and half dimes for melting into larger denominations, but thus far declined. Said that there were many of these coins in the city, and inconvenient for trade. Asked for advice – to except to melt or not.

March 10th – Kennedy to Patterson – felt that the iron gate in front of the bldg entirely unnecessary, and wished to have a gate on the east side opposite the residence of the Supt and Coiner. No detriment to the public, and only 2 balconies from 2 dwellings needed versus 3. Also wanted 2 balconies from 2 dwellings installed mainly because of the climate. Felt that the cost would not exceed \$200.

March 20th, Patterson to Cammack – decision to refuse dimes and 1/2 dimes for re-coining was correct. Patterson felt that the demand for both will probably be renewed when the new postage act comes into operation.

April 1st – Kennedy to Patterson – in a postscript to this letter he said that he had heard of an applicant for his office from a Mr. Woodruff – brother in law of David Bradford.

April 25th, Tyler to Patterson – Developed an invention for compressing cotton and was progressing well under the superintendence of a Mr. Pendleton – who said that Tyler

could make a great profit from it. All the companies for compressing have agreed to adopt it if it operates in full size versus the model, which Mr. P. expects to prove to them it will in the course of 11 days. Before the report on cotton compressing, Tyler wrote of his achievements at the mint. First was a proposal to remove a vault in the coining room for the new press, which was objected to by Riddell. Riddell was appeased by the suggestion to build a new vault in one end of the bleaching room and connected with Riddell's other vault. It would make a spacious double vault with a door in between. This agreed to, Tyler said that moving the machine shop to the upper story would assist the shaft which gave the press power and give a light and day atmosphere to that shop. Also because of the uneven settling of the bldg, he put all the presses on one side and added additional support and solidity to the floor by this placement by the ends of the joints near the solid and heavy wall. On the inside of the presses he put 3 cast iron columns embraced by timber. On the side of the room where the presses are he put in a heavy floor, but put yellow pine and black walnut planks alternately on their edges. This formed a line to which visitors may approach toward the presses and by a chain separating them from the presses and said all this was done at little expense and did not interfere with operations. Lastly, he said he and his wife were in better health after experiencing the better weather in the North, and hopes to return to the North each year as it seems necessary to have to do.

May 3rd, Kennedy to Patterson – 1844 canceled dies – 6 head and 6 tails Eagles, 1/2 eagles, 8 heads, 4 tails; 1/4 eagles 6 heads; 1/2 dollar 12 heads, 10 tails; 1/4 dollars 5 heads, 4 tails; dimes 4 heads. Same letter, Kennedy said that he omitted to mention that we found 2 1/2 eagle dies left, and 2 eagle head dies since, than those called for, both in his list and Mr. Tyler's. It is supposed that by Tyler that we must have committed an error in entering them.

May 5th, Patterson to Kennedy – Patterson said he would withhold approval for Kennedy on proposed changes to building if it exceeded \$200.

May 6th, Kennedy to Patterson – sends complete correction of what dies were canceled. Dies canceled total 68, those held in reserve (all tails) 33. (This seems to indicate that since die shipments improved, no head dies were kept for next year's use.)

May 9th, Another correction of canceled dies from Kennedy to Patterson – discovery that 3 head dime and 3 head 1/2 dime dies have been canceled versus 2 1/2 dime and 4 of the dime.

May 19th, Cammack leaving – Patterson praises his work. Replaced?

May 27th, Cammack responds in kind to Patterson and says his books and accounts have been turned over to his successor.

May 30th, John R. Macmurdo appointed new Mint Treasurer.

June 7th, Treasury Secretary Robert J. Walker encouraged Kennedy to strike dimes and 1/2 dimes ASAP in order to satisfy the demand for them after the Post Office law was put into operation. No 1/2 dimes were struck, but 230,000 dimes were. No dimes again until 1849 (300,000).

July 3rd, Secretary Walker instructs mint to strike 1/4 eagles and 1/2 eagles and quarter dollars. Only 4,000 1/4 eagles struck, 41,000 1/2 eagles, and no quarter dollars (the mint had struck 740,000 pieces in 1844 – still in stock?)

July 8th, Tyler to Patterson – wrote that he asked Kennedy, when he went North, to ask for some new equipment, but apparently he had forgotten. So he repeated his need for plating rolls, pointing rolls, a new center joint for the 1/2 dollar press. It looked to him that it was necessary to receive the material to continue with a full amount of business. He said that England manufactured them, and could not be acquired locally. And he was headed to Springfield, Massachusetts. (The location of a machinery plant in which he had an interest)

July 10th, Kennedy to Patterson – operations suspended for just a few days because the boilers required some attention – needing new bottoms. And the arches under the principal furnace were giving way. Temporary repairs were resorted to. He also asked for a leave of absence for Tyler for he was ill and so was his wife, and leaving Brooks again in charge of department. Also, they received an order for \$30,000 in dimes and 1/2 dimes because the new Post Office Law would create a demand for those denominations. Apparently there was an adequate stock of 1/2 dimes especially because no 1845 1/2 dimes were struck, and 230,000 dimes were struck in 1845.

July 17th, Patterson to Tyler – asked Tyler to procure his needed material from the North if possible. He added that, "It is proper that you should know, that I have not, at my command, a dollar of money, belonging to the New Orleans Mint".

July 21st, Kennedy to Patterson – suspended operations on the 19th with about \$60,000 in gold and \$47,000 in silver coin, more than enough due to depositors. The last sum included \$30,000 coined into dimes and 1/2 dimes by the Secretary's order. Repairs required in M/R would require all their workmen and operations wouldn't resume until probably Oct 1st. Riddell has a leave of absence until Oct 1st, and Dr. Hort will remain to supervise repairs.

July 23rd, Tyler to Patterson – learned that the machinery he requested can be made at Ayer's in Boston, and he has notified Kennedy for necessary funding. Also said that he would be coming to Philadelphia in about 2 weeks.

July 25th, Patterson to Kennedy – responding to the Treasury request for \$30,000 to be coined into dimes and 1/2 dimes. He said he told the Secretary that there was an abundance of these coins in New Orleans and the Mississippi Valley. He will probably not send you more bullion for this coinage. He said that Philadelphia has already coined \$225,000 in dimes and 1/2 dimes, and will soon have \$100,000 in quarters.

July 29th, Kennedy to Patterson – Suspension repairs to be done in coining and M/R departments during this time. Only \$60 in gold, and \$47 in silver coin was returned to depositors during this time of suspension.

August 7th, Macmurdo to Patterson – Post Master at New Orleans requests that ASAP to send \$250 worth of copper coin.

August 8th, Tyler to Patterson – Kennedy sick so he went through Macmurdo for \$500 for the machinery made in Boston.

September 6th, Kennedy to Patterson – repairs progressing rapidly – looking to open by October 1st.

September 12th, Kennedy to Riddell – thanks for the copy of Riddell's work, "Monograph of the Dollar". Said it was a work of great interest.

October 2nd, Kennedy to Patterson – operations resumed October 1st. Have not completed all repairs particularly in M/R, but enough to run efficiently. Received that morning, the 2nd, \$120,000 deposit – 20 of it in French gold coin.

October 24th, Macmurdo asked why he couldn't be accommodated with a dwelling in the mint. He asked Patterson to respond to Kennedy after he had made his request to him with an unreasonable response in return.

October 24th, Tyler to Patterson from Springfield, Mass – reasons why he was unable to return to New Orleans yet. He was very ill and said he was afflicted with a terrible disease, unable to undertake the journey, or even to walk without distress. He started his journey on the 23rd, but was far from being well. But when going to the Railroad Depot, his wife said that she was ill, so he turned back home. They had planned to leave the next morning but she got worse, and it was surprising since they have been well all summer. He said that he knew Brooks was taking care of things at the mint, and expected to leave when they could.

November 5th, Patterson to Kennedy – Tyler visited him on the 3rd and was to set out for New Orleans immediately.

November 5th, - Tyler to Patterson from Baltimore – missed Patterson in Philadelphia (not having the chance). However, the previous letter from Patterson to Kennedy said that Tyler did visit him on the 3rd???? Tyler finished this letter and said that Boston had not done anything on the new rolls for the mint and he could not promise to complete them in 6 months. Tyler did ask him to at least cast him one roll ASAP. He would finish it at New Orleans, and confident he would do a better job than what he has seen done in Boston. The low stage of water on the Ohio has caused him to stay by the mail route and also his wife remained in Philadelphia during this winter.

November 18th, Tyler to Patterson – arrived in good health on the 15th, despite a tedious journey. He awaited the one roll he ordered, but it never arrived, and was afraid that Mr. Morris in Boston had forgotten. He has decided to make the rolls in New Orleans, and can make them cheaper than Boston. He asked that the order for rolls from Boston be countermanded. He added, "I notice that the dies lately sent to us are very imperfectly raised, the letters are all merging into one another so as to give a confused appearance on the coin". Kennedy said something about a swap of dies, but hasn't said anything further. (no denomination of what dies were given in the records)

December 11th, Patterson to Kennedy – he had learned that the dies would be sent by the Post Office at letter postage which would make a large expense for New Orleans. He said that he would appeal. Report from the Postmaster that a recent shipment of dies from Philadelphia weighing 3 pounds, at 20 cents per ounce, would amount to \$9.60 postage.

December 12th, Patterson to Kennedy – said that the Postmaster insists that the dies are "not mail-able matter" at all, under the law, therefore, if sent by mail, it must be charged at the highest rate. Patterson said he is taking this matter to Washington.

December 12th, Kennedy to Patterson – said he had a request from Tyler for gas lighting. But he told Tyler that Patterson said only if for "absolute necessity". Told Tyler that he would have to prove necessity, and that would involve overtime and maybe cause laziness with the workers having to work at night.

Coinage 1845

January – 23,000 half-eagles

February – 8,000 half eagles

2nd letter of this report conflicts with the number on previous letter of the striking of 1/2 eagles. The second letter dated March 15th, 1845 lists a combination of January and February and says that only 23 half eagles in January and then only 8 half eagles in Febru-

ary. Is the second report missing the zeroes, or is this added coinage? This was said to be a combined report for January and February, but yet the March 3rd letter says just 8,000 half-eagles, and that's it. Without Philos Tyler and Kennedy present at this time, both new Treasurer McMurdo, and interim Supt and also mint assayer, W. Hort, sent this report.

March – no coinage of gold just half dollars.

July 3rd – Treasury Secretary Walker ordered that New Orleans strike quarter eagles. However, the mint suspended operations on July 19th and reopened about October 1st. Coiner Tyler was ill and an order came from Postal Dept (new law) to strike \$30,000 in dimes and half-dimes. There was plenty in stock of ½ dimes, but 230,000 pieces of the dime were struck in 1845.

July – there was a coinage this month consisting of 5500 eagles, 80,000 1/2 dollars, and 230,000 dimes.

August – no coinage – suspension of operations due to Yellow Fever.

September – no coinage – same reason.

October – 7,000 eagles, 190,000 1/2 dollars.

November – 2,000 eagles, 154,000 1/2 dollars. (report submitted by McMurdo and Hort)

December 17, - 2 head dies for ½ eagle (dated 1845) received. But a question mark was placed next to a small written listing of 2 heads of quarter-eagle dies received as well. Apparently, there was a question of die box numbers here with die boxes miss marked somehow. At least 1 die of this quarter-eagle was used in January of 1846 to strike 4,000 pieces.

December – 2000 eagles, 4,000 half eagles.

The Year of 1846

January 6th, - Patterson to Kennedy – just discovered that assay coins sent June 13th of last year never arrived for the Assay Commission. It had been overlooked at the time. The total missing was \$34 – consisting of 2 eagles and 28 halves. Asked Kennedy to further investigate including with the Post Office.

January 6th, - Patterson to Kennedy – announced that he received his final notice

from the Post Master General that all die shipments would still be charged the higher rate of letter postage. So Patterson said he would send a box of dies, of all denominations shortly, and to inform him of what further dies needed. This may cut back on the number of shipments and he may also find some private way of shipping the dies.

January 17th, - Kennedy to Patterson – checked with post office and they had a receipt (Kennedy sent Patterson a copy of this receipt) for shipment of missing assay coins and they had a receipt as well in the mint records. Kennedy also listed the most needed dies, which were ½ eagle, eagles, ¼ dollar, half dollar, but did note that Tyler informed him that an eagle die received recently had a seam in the steel, which made it unavailable.

January 22 – Kennedy reports receipt of one pair 1/2 dollar and 1 pair of Eagle dies.

January 24th, Kennedy to Patterson – asked under whose risk are the sweeps to be shipped. Said that Riddell was unwilling to take any responsibility whatever in the matter.

January 24th, - Kennedy reported receipt of 1 pair ½ eagle, 1 pair ¼ eagle, 1 pair ¼ dollar, 1 pair dime, and 1 pair ½ dime dies.

January 26th, - Kennedy notes that they received 1 pair of 1/2 eagle, 1 pair of quarter-eagle, 1 pair of 1/4 dollar, 1 pair of dime, and 1 pair of half dime dies. (Quarter eagle dies underlined here because this is the first receipt of this denomination for the year of 1846.

January 28th, - Patterson to his past "Director's Clerk", George F. Dunning, if he recalled the circumstances of his noting the arrival of the missing assay pieces. Patterson noted that Denning had annotated the arrival of same on the day he left his position with the mint.

January 28th, - Patterson to R. J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, - inquired if the missing package of assay coins was received there to forward to Philadelphia for the annual assay commission report for last year. He said that he had contacted all others responsible in the assay coin travels.

January 29th, - Walker to Patterson – assay coins received and sent to Philadelphia on June 13th, 1845.

January 29th, Patterson to Kennedy – investigation of the missing assay coins has been completed with no result, and adds that more 1/4 eagle dies will follow.

February 3rd, - Patterson to Kennedy – agreed with Riddell that he "ought not to be such responsible for any risk in the transaction of the shipment of sweeps".

February 4th, Kennedy to Patterson – a large amount of ingots were found to be by the coiner unfit for operations for his dept. Said that he was chagrined about this delay in paying depositors. He had checked on the rolling of the ingots and found several that have blistered.

February 7th, Kennedy to Patterson – reported ingots were better. Fault might have been from the depositors of Mexican Dollars of poor quality. Adequate refining seems to have corrected problem.

February 9th, Riddell to Kennedy – he explained that he has added copper during refining to procure better silver ingots. But yet Tyler did not feel able to manufacture coin from them. Felt that the Mexican Dollars made from bullion not properly refined. He recommended that all this bullion be made into dollars, for which it may do, or that they adapt longer ingot molds for halves which will tend to remedy the defect. (Could this be one reason dollars were for the first year coined in New Orleans?)

February 10th, Patterson to Kennedy – said that he thought that the missing assay coins were lost somewhere between Washington and Philadelphia. (However, Dunning implicated that the coins were received in Philadelphia – what then?)

March 3rd, - Tyler to Kennedy – had no coinage of silver because the silver ingots were a problem, but one correction made coins either too light or too heavy. Felt that the problems are correctable if correct annealing is accomplished from the difficult mixture of metals.

March 6th, Kennedy to Patterson – reported that ingots have improved, coining of silver recommenced, and Riddell's suggestion of large ingot moulds has worked. Unfortunately, the process required additional machining of an expensive character and the use of 2 men transferred from the coining dept. Silver ingots continued to improve and has directed Riddell to send 5,000 Mexican dollars to Patterson of which he complains, so that they can be tested in Philadelphia. If found imperfect, he would like to get rid of them, or await Patterson's directives.

April 1st, Patterson to Kennedy – informed Chief Coiner in Philadelphia to ready dollar dies for New Orleans. Also glad that New Orleans Mint fully employed.

April 8th, Macmurdo to Patterson – silver ingots have worked so much better, that they have agreed, for the present, to postpone the shipment of Mexican dollars. In fact, they might not send them at all. Also said that he has not granted, without Patterson's approval to give 1/2 pay to 2 or 3 of Tyler's employees for work during the suspension of operations of coining so repairs of the machinery could be made. Awaits reply.

April 8th, - Patterson to Kennedy – a pair of dollar dies sent and another pair to be sent the next day.

April 22nd – Patterson to Kennedy – disappointed that Tyler embarrassed Kennedy by saying his temporary use of a few workmen should get half pay for helping during suspension. Said it should have been Kennedy's decision.

April 24th – Kennedy to Patterson – 2 pair of dollars dies arrived.

Early May – Brooks is acting Coiner in Tyler's absence.

May 13th – Foreman of the Coining Dept, and future Coiner John Brooks married Rufus Tyler's daughter, Mary B. Tyler, and they were married at the mint.

May 16th – Tyler requested dies – 3 or 4 pair of ½ dollar, and Kennedy said a previous pair has already struck 120,000 pieces.

June 2nd, - P. B. Tyler (Coiner) to Kennedy – in anticipation of the closing of operations during the summer, he suggested the employing of workmen to do some inside touching up of the mint, including painting, and repairing machinery (particularly the old ½ dollar press and steam engine). Felt that in the past years of stopping coinage there was a missed opportunity to better the mint as we have now.

June 9th, - Macmurdo (Mint Treasurer) to Patterson – concerning the missing package of Assay coins – he felt that the Post Office should take care of the loss – assay coin #4 delivery made from 27th to 31 of May 1845.

June 10th, - Tyler to Patterson – the reason for his suggestions in the previous letter was that because of his health in the summer months of New Orleans, and was informed that the mint will be closed July and August. And, at which time he was granted by Kennedy a leave of absence for the summer. The workers will be able to work on the machinery during that time. He added that the foreman, Mr. Brooks, left here a month ago and he probably visited you with his new bride, the daughter of my deceased brother Rufus. Their marriage was unexpected by me as he looked upon his niece as too young for such a responsibility. But knowing Brooks to be extremely kind and affectionate, he made no further hesitation in giving his consent. He decided to stay until Brooks came back but has been very ill and been to bed several times. The Supt has allowed me to leave for a time for fresh air, and Mr. Albert Mitchell will take my place.

June 14th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Tyler left on the 10th for the North. He added in this letter Tyler's letter to him about reasons for leaving for his health. Lastly, he wrote that the last pair of ½ dollar dies had arrived.

June 18th, - Patterson to Kennedy – accepts his desire to close operations for the summer. He added that, “we find that you have ordered 2 tail Eagle dies as 2 tail Dime dies more and 2 tail Half Eagle are 2 tail half dime dies less, then you would be entitled to by our list. This shows a correspondence in the number of dies, but not in the kind. Quite possible that the error occurred here in consequence of the manner in which the dies covered up for the remittance by the mail. Your list must therefore be considered as the authentic one. Lastly, we cannot put the blame on the missing dies mentioned previously onto the Post Office. There is no proof, so we take the loss.

June 25th, - Tyler to Patterson – requested a need immediately for sets of rolls and a new milling machine for Dollars and ½ Dollars. Proposed these be made in the North and he would superintend. He proposed the rolls to be cast in Boston, and in Springfield he would find them there. (send them?)

July 5th, - Kennedy to Patterson – due to increased deposits, some very large, we are compelled to remain in operation until August 1st. Asked to have new scales sent by October 1st since theirs are quite imperfect.

July 6th, - Patterson to Kennedy – the office of Coiner at the Charlotte Mint is vacant and I have contacted your Mr. Brooks to fill the position. He seems receptive, and I have put his name in consideration for the President’s options to fill it.

July 16th, - Kennedy to Patterson – during the suspension last summer, and in absence of Tyler, 3 or 4 of the workmen in the Coining Department had absented themselves from the mint, on several occasions during work hours. They had used the back gate without passing the doorkeeper. The roll, at the end of the month, showed no deductions from their pay. He asked Brooks, temporary Coiner at the time, an explanation – and he said there was a severe indisposition at the time of making out the document, as the cause of the overnight and stated that the dissemination of wages, instead only me, had always been contemplated. Not my intention to question the fidelity of Brooks as well as his ability, but feel it my duty to lay this before you. (Brooks explanation not quite understandable here)

July 29th, - Kennedy to Secretary to the Treasury Walker – on August 1st, will suspend operations until October 1st, partly because of the hot weather and to put the various departments in order. Asked for leave of absence for Macmurdo to visit Philadelphia to see their operations, especially the Treasurer’s Office.

August 10th, - Patterson to Kennedy – has no objection to Macmurdo coming to Philadelphia, but doubts that it would be necessary, nor contributing to his duties at New Orleans.

August 22nd – Kennedy to Patterson - Macmurdo leave authorized by Secretary and

he left on the 18th for Philadelphia and will spend a few days in Richmond, VA.

August 27th, - Patterson to Kennedy – relented that it had some importance that Macmurdo come to Philadelphia and has withdrawn his objections.

September 11th, - Macmurdo to (?) - visited the Director in Philadelphia and came up with the fact that there has been, with the New Orleans Supt, a dissatisfaction with the official course of Riddell. He had a dissatisfaction with Mexican dollars brought to the mint that were mutilated and less fine after melting, but further testing by Dr. Hort proved that they were within fineness parameters. Also, Macmurdo said that Riddell has a negro man named Jim who was detected in stealing a watch. He was to be removed, but Riddell objected to it and would keep an eye on him during the day, but should not stay in the mint at night. And, later said that he would sell (unreadable) him. But Macmurdo doubted it.

September 12th, - Brooks to Kennedy = received from Patterson 5 boxes of dies to accompany him on his return to New Orleans.

September 16th, - Macmurdo to Patterson – applied for a residence for he and his family in the mint. Feels that he should be on equal par with the other officers. (This is a 3-page letter – pages 86-88, Entry 11, 1846 2nd square)

September 16th, - Tyler to Patterson (in the same letter following of the request for dies for 1847 from where he was in Springfield) – Tyler added that the patterns for the milling machine have not yet arrived. The chill (?) for the rolls will arrive tomorrow from Boston. Because of the delay, I cannot accomplish all that I had wished. He did say that he would endeavor to leave Springfield by the 23rd or 24th, and on his way back through Philadelphia take with him whatever dies are available.

October 8th, - Patterson to Kennedy – approved the alterations proposed for the basement with the consultation with Mr. Peale of Philadelphia that the estimated cost for doing so is moderate. (apparently some of the rooms will be fitted for the Captain of the Night Watch)

October 12th, - Kennedy to Hort – in response to complaints of proper procedures not followed in the determination of fineness of the Mexican dollars viewed for melting – he felt that all proper procedures were followed, and any charge against you verbally are hereby ceased and officer teamwork will be maintained, and I have assurance that it will.

October 26th, - Walker to Patterson – a proposal for New Orleans mint building improvement, and alterations, submitted. Concerning partitions, doors, windows, base, skylight, painting and plastering. Cost \$700. (Detail of entire work on Page 127 and diagrams of proposal on page 128 – Entry 11, 1846 – 2nd square)

October 27th, - Tyler to Patterson – arrived safely this date with dies on hand. However, the responsibility of doing so was much more than I anticipated, from the incompetent means of carrying baggage of any kind safely, together with frequent changes of one mode of transport to another. Plus the transfer at night of the baggage under the possession of those not connected with the mint disturbed me. And, ask for your thoughts on the matter. Upon arrival, found everything well in my Department.

October 27th, - Patterson to Walker – concerning the proposed alterations for the New Orleans mint, he sent them to Kennedy for his opinion.

November 28th, - Kennedy to Patterson – sent a plan for the proposed alterations in the basement for the accommodation of the Sub Treasury. Currently the area is occupied by the use of the Captain of the Night Watch which has been held by the Captain since the mint first opened. Asked for approval.

December 17th, - Nelson Tyler (letter from Springfield from a relative of Philos who worked at the mint temporarily on the machinery) to Patterson – Making a milling machine for the New Orleans mint, I find nothing in the drawing plans having whether or not the iron frame under the floor is bolted or fastened to the base of the machine above the floor. The cast of the frame goes in too loosely, so would suggest that it is fastened to the floor.

December 19th, - Patterson to Walker – suggested to adopt the alteration plan for the New Orleans mint for Kennedy is also receptive to the changes.



Kennedy's basement alteration proposal - approved

December 21st – Patterson to Nelson Tyler in Springfield – Peale of our mint responded to your query on the milling machine. “The frame is to be bolted to the stand by 2 screws on each side, and 2 steady pins to each. If the frame is cast too small the intervals must be filled up with iron plates, and the whole firmly bolted together, so that the milling machine may be complete within itself, and be set upon the floor without any other fastening.

Coinage of 1846

January – 4,000 Quarter Eagles struck, but more than likely these were dated 1845 because of the late arrival of the 1846 dies (January 24th, 1846). The New Orleans mint reported no coinage of this denomination in 1845, yet pieces do exist today. Another of Philo Tyler's decision to use outdated dies? More than likely, and this was reported by Walter Breen some years past as to what happened to justify the existence of 1845 O Quarter eagles, but he said that the 4,000 pieces struck this month were delivered on January 22nd, which is correct proving that the 4,000 struck were actually dated 1845.

February 27, 1846 – received 3 pair of 1/4 eagle dies.

February – only Eagles were struck this month, 21,000 total.

March 19th, - Patterson to Walker – another request to send cent pieces to New Orleans is debatable since the shipments of same in the past have an utter failure of need. He said that \$1500 in cents was sent in 1842, and 2 and 1/2 years later, \$620 of that amount was sent back to Philadelphia because they could not be disposed of. Patterson said that he would accept any further copper cents requests, but would have to be with discretion.

March 19, Tyler to (?) said ready to coin dollars since they are holding large deposits of silver that can be converted to that denomination if dies are sent. (Approved, sent 2 pair that arrived April 24th.)

March – 10,000 Eagles.

April – 13,000 half eagles, and 12,000 eagles.

May – eagles, 1/2 eagles, and 1/2 dollars coined.

May 26th, - Patterson sent 1 pair of 1/2 dollar dies, and another the next day.

June 4 – Kennedy to Patterson – the following dies have been canceled by a cross being cut across their faces. Eagles – 5 heads & 3 tails; 1/2 Eagle – 4 pairs; 1/4 Eagle – 4 heads; 1/2 dollars – 14 pair; 1/4 dollars – 4 heads; Dimes – 4 heads & 2 tails; 1/2 dime – 5 heads. (all 1845 dated dies). Same letter requested a suspension of operations for the middle of July to the middle of September or October 1st. Also, he allowed Riddell a modest expense to erect a furnace for casting silver ingots.

June – 1/2 & 1/4 Eagles, dollars ^ 1/2 dollars struck.

July 18th – Kennedy to Patterson – Mitchell (temporary Coiner) had told him that 2 of his 1/2 dollar dies have unexpectedly given out. Need to replace them.

July 28th, - Patterson to Kennedy – sent a pair of 1/2 dollar dies, sending another tomorrow. Also, reminded Kennedy that he had not acknowledged receipt of 2 pair of 1/2 dollar dies sent to you on May 26th and 27th.

July – Eagles and halves coined.

August 4th, - Kennedy to Patterson – asked for 2 1/2 eagle heads; 2 1/4 eagle heads; 1 1/4

dollar head; and 2 pair $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar – in addition to the 2 pair asked for on the 18th of July. Hope to have these before we open again on October 1st.

August 7th, - Kennedy to Patterson – received the 2 pair of $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar dies asked for on July 13th. He explained that his lack of notification of receipt of previous dies sent in May was a bit of confusion on his part.

August – no coinage

September 16th, - Tyler (letter from Springfield) to Patterson – sends a request for dies for 1847 – 3 pair eagles; 3 pair $\frac{1}{2}$ eagles; 3 pair $\frac{1}{4}$ eagles; 2 heads dimes; 4 pairs dollars; 12 pairs for $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars; 3 pairs of $\frac{1}{4}$ dollars; 2 heads for half dimes. Tyler wrote that he could pick them up in Philadelphia and take them with him to New Orleans.

September 26th, - Kennedy to Patterson – received 1 pair $\frac{1}{4}$ dollar and 2 head $\frac{1}{2}$ eagle and 2 head $\frac{1}{4}$ eagle dies.

September – no coinage.

October 17th, - Kennedy to Patterson – the following dies, transferred by Brooks, have arrived. 1 pair of dollars; 2 pair $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar; 2 head eagles; 1 pair $\frac{1}{2}$ eagle. Lastly, Macmurdo returned to his post on the 1st and Brooks to his on the 3rd.

October 31st, - Hort to Kennedy – concerning the recent controversy over the delivered Mexican dollars for melting – we have found many counterfeits in many of the deliveries which effects our end results. He suggested that no denomination be given to large deposits until after they have been spread on the floor for assay when by examination they may be correctly named. He gave 8 counterfeits to Kennedy and asked to have them forwarded to Philadelphia.

October – half eagles and half dollars coined.

November 4th, - Kennedy to Patterson – reported that Tyler brought back with him the following dies for 1847: 12 pair $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar; 4 pair for the dollar; 4 pair $\frac{1}{4}$ dollar; 3 pair for the eagle; 5 pair & 2 tails for the $\frac{1}{2}$ eagle; 3 pair & 2 tails for quarter eagle; 2 heads for the dime; and 2 heads for the half dime.

November 9th, - Patterson to Kennedy – received letter from Hort and since our assays of Mexican dollars have been in disagreement we have to look more thoroughly at this matter.

November – half eagles and half dollars coined.

December – eagles; ½ eagles; and ½ dollars coined.

Mint Director's Annual Report for 1846 from Patterson stated that 66,000 quarter eagles were struck in 1846. Red Book lists only 62,000 struck pieces.

The Year of 1847

January 1st, - Philos Tyler resigned his position this month, and wrote a 3 page letter to Kennedy relating to all the improvements to the machinery he had made in New Orleans. And, he finishes the letter with, "Much of my attention was given to remodeling our Coining room", and he wanted also, "to present a tasteful exhibition to the eye of visitors and company in all of which my anticipations have been fully met". He also added that he had ill health by being in the heat and epidemic in the city. (Entry 11, 1846, 2nd box – pages 198-200)

January 2nd, - Kennedy to Patterson – sent Tyler's letter and can make no suggestion for his replacement – does not want to prejudice a decision.

January 3rd, - Tyler to Patterson – while in the North last summer, I was fully concerned that the climate there was so much better for me than New Orleans. On my arrival back to New Orleans, I was worn out with fatigue and the weather so warm, I was confined to my bed for 2 or 3 days from severe sickness, no more than a day or two free from pain or suffering. I feel the dreadful disease of this climate, a diarrhea more than a month standing. Mrs Tyler is also more ill since her return from Havana, and when she returns, and the weather clear we will return to the North. My suggestions for my replacement is Mr. Denny, but the other officers suggest Mr. Brooks. Most of the workers support Denny, but I let Kennedy make the final decision of course.

January 4th, - Tyler to Patterson – 3 page letter (Entry 11, 1846, 2nd box, pages 207-209) – Brooks has sent a letter to Kennedy asking for the Coiner's position, and has heard that Denny and a man named Lyons and other workmen had intimated that they should make certain charges against him as the foreman of the Coining department. He requires that these men provide substantial reasons, for he is confident that no charges can be presented. Said that Kennedy prefers him over Denny and he believes Brooks very competent, but said he will not recommend anyone. He said that he had talked to Dr. Hort and he said he was pressed to recommend Denny as Coiner and Lyons as foreman. He then related his accomplishments as Temporary Coiner and earlier foreman of this department, and related what he said about his plans for economy of the department for the future.

January 4th, - Kennedy to Patterson – enclosed statement against Brooks – the main

charges contained in eight of the ten charges are made by 2 or more of the defendants, one affirmed by Denny the other by Mitchell alone. However, Brooks has Kennedy's full support to replace Tyler.

January 4th, - the next 16 pages (Entry 11, 1846, Box #2, pages 234 – 250 explain the charges in detail and is cumbersome. Plus, it contains Brooks answers to those charges in detail as well. The 16 pages will not be repeated here in full, only partial, and that will be a letter from Philos Tyler near the same date, and is to follow.

January 8th, - Brooks to Patterson – applied for Coiner with his resume. For several years has served as Acting Coiner and foreman in the Coining Department. Has resided in New Orleans for 14 years and has the support of the Governor, Mayor and others of note in the community. Also, feels he has support of his fellow officers.

January 9th, - Kennedy to Patterson – brought his Assayer, Melter/Refiner, and Treasurer to discuss the charges against Brooks by 7 or 8 of the workmen. Documents of their statements to be forwarded.

January 9th, - Riddell to Smythe (Treasury Department Clerk) – Supported Brooks as the Coiner to replace Tyler and Macmurdo on this same date also supported Brooks.

January – (? date) – From Dr. Hort, from those who have made the charges, to Smythe – Charges made against Brooks:

1. Rolling of dentists' gold during work hours.
2. Brooks had a grind stone removed from the mint, but this was done by Tyler's direct order.
3. Charge that oil was sent to Tyler by Brooks many times – but this was submitted as satisfactory.
4. Charge that he was absent many times from his duties – explained by the directives from Tyler of which the workmen would know nothing about.
5. Brooks sent 3 men during 1845 suspension to whitewash a room under Mr. Clapp's Church where the Sunday School is held.
6. A workman was employed nearly a month making patterns for a planning machine for Brooks. This machine is used at the mint – then it would seem proper for Brooks to improve the same.
7. Charge that Mr. Brooks spent too much on other matters that retarded operations at the mint. However, the amount of production in 1846 was more than deposited.
8. The men who worked on the cotton press had been claimed by other workmen that their mint pay was not deducted while they did this, but in fact their pay was, and Tyler compensated for the pay loss for the work accomplished.

Hort reiterated that Brooks ability to run the Coining Department has already been demonstrated by his taking over the department when Tyler was away.

Tyler's response was to the charges against Brooks began with him stating that Brooks had been induced to roll plates of gold for dentists – but not done as a matter of profit for himself, and was purely done through the accommodation of these gentlemen, as they could not have it done elsewhere. As far as being absent from his duties, I disagree that this never happened while I was there, he has given constant attention to his duties. The workmen who were allowed to work on Millwood's cotton press, during the summer of 1845, were afterwards paid by me, and the Superintendent was aware that their time was deducted from the pay roll.

January 11th, - Patterson to Walker – promotes Brooks appointed to Coiner at New Orleans. And on January 11th, he wrote a letter to President Polk promoting Brooks as well.

January 14th, - Brooks to Patterson – said that hopefully from his record, and the answers to the charges against him acceptable that he would accept his application for Coiner. He did add that he felt that Mr. Denny, upon learning of Tyler's resignation, that he gathered from Department workers charges against me and in favor of him for the position.

January 16th, - Kennedy to Patterson – enclosed a copy of a letter from Macmurdo requesting to acquire the residence in the mint once held by Tyler.

January 17th, - Macmurdo to Kennedy – insists that he has a right to have residence in the mint. Felt that he had a deeper stake in the safety and security of the mint than any other officer.

January 20th, - Patterson to President Polk – reserves final judgment of Brooks becoming Coiner at New Orleans because of recent objections to him. He is awaiting a response from Kennedy to make his recommendation or not.

January 22nd, - Brooks to Patterson – the new Senator from our state said that he will push for my name to be recommended for Coiner at the next Senate session.

January 30th, - Patterson to Polk – recommends Brooks as Coiner, and feels the accusations against him are unwarranted for the most part since he did not receive compensation for any outside work. Also, the letter from Dr. Hort speaks volumes for Brooks integrity.

February 23rd, - Patterson to Walker – the session of Congress has closed but I have heard no action on New Orleans getting a Coiner to replace Tyler. It is important that the position be filled.

February 27th, - Walker to Patterson – requested Patterson recommend to him a suitable person for Coiner at New Orleans (Patterson had already, but Walker apparently for-

got). Patterson recommended Brooks.

March 6th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Dr. Hort with the assumption that more gold will be coined this year, that the ovens and their appendages may not be up to the volume. Would like to have 2 new ovens sent from Philadelphia.

March 8th, - Patterson to Brooks – you have been appointed Coiner. Reminds him that “you certainly have reason to complain of the conduct of some of the men about to be under your charge, yet let me advise you that your conduct toward them to be conciliatory.”

March 15th, Walker asked Patterson to inform him of what amount of gold and silver, can be coined at the mint in one month, utilizing the whole force of the establishment into active operations. Apparently, there was a huge demand for eagles and 1/2 eagles as the mintage was heavy for both. He asked the same of New Orleans.

March 19th, - Brooks to Patterson – sent his sincere thanks for recommending him and he will do his duty to the best of his ability. Though he does have a concern as to the proper course to pursue towards his difficult workmen in order to render the department safe and efficient. He realized that dismissal would not be in order, and have concluded that conciliation is my best course. “However, I have two workmen who are so designing and mischievous and openly opposed to me, that I can expect evil at their hands. I feel no injury to me from them. The following morning was sent to me by a person who was unwilling to listen. The warning, “Tell Mr. Brooks to be on his guard and it is in contemplation to play a trick by destroying the machinery at the mint.” I should have thought little of this but the warnings became true. Mr. Denny, the boldest of them, has left the mint, and Mr. Lyon has been for some time carrying on after his own, and Mr. Mitchell has been preparing business for himself. Once I find myself free of these 3, that there will be no further difficulty.” Lastly, he said that Mrs Tyler is in very bad health – she and her husband Philos join in presenting their respect to you.

March 22nd, - Patterson to Kennedy – assay furnaces and mufflers requested by Hort will be attended to. Also, sent 2 half dollar dies, and will make the same remittance to you tomorrow and the next day.

March 27th, - Patterson to Brooks – responded to his letter by saying if it comes to possible dismissal of any of your workmen, talk to Kennedy who has the final say. I am sure he will agree with you if need be – especially if you have men who are insubordinate.

April 1st, - Brooks to Patterson – officially took his oath of office as Coiner. Said that Kennedy agreed with him that Mitchell and Lyons should not continue in the mint. Said that Mitchell admitted to his own improper conduct and left for Illinois where he has a farm. Added that they coined in March a half million dollars.

April 18th, - New Orleans mint employee, C. C. Lyon to Patterson – told Patterson that he had been with the New Orleans mint for 9 years, and what time he had not heard a complaint against him until about 3 months ago. The charges against Philos Tyler and Brooks, with the results of which you are familiar. The evening before Brooks took over his duties, he informed me that my services would be disposed with. I asked for the cause, but he declined to say. I told the Superintendent and he said Brooks had no right to discharge me and that I am not discharged. I have not left voluntarily as of yet and if employed, I would like to know my relationship with the mint. I don't feel that anything I've done sustains such treatment. All I ask is justice and the respect to which I am entitled, and ask for a reply.

April 23rd, - Walker to Patterson ordering him to ship \$1,000 worth of copper cents to the mint for distribution – despite Patterson's reservations to sending copper coin to New Orleans by his letter of March 19th, 1846.

April 24th, - Patterson to Lyon – received your letter of inquiry and I will refer you to Kennedy for a response.

April 24th, - Patterson to Kennedy – felt that Brooks discharged Lyon without the proper authority from you.

May 11th, - Kennedy to Patterson – he had very little to say about Lyon. I informed Lyon on April 1st, when Brooks took over, that Brooks had furnished me with a list of those workmen whom he desired to retain in his department and that it did not contain his name. He felt that since his name was not on the list that it was because his complaints against Brooks worked against him, and I can see why Lyon felt that way.

June 8th, - Patterson to Kennedy – Franklin Peale (Philadelphia) will be doing the job on the scales, and he will do for here and for you. This will allay the expense of doing it on the outside.

June 14th, - a private letter from Kennedy to Brooks – he expressed his own concern for his own family in the mint during this hot weather. He stressed the need for ventilation and that is why the arrangement of the dwellings. This could not have happened without the use of the back gallery as a means of communication between the rooms occupied by you and Mrs. Tyler's windows. Thus, I feel that the present arrangement is conducive enough for both of our livelihoods.

June 16th, - Brooks to Kennedy – in response to Kennedy's January 14th letter – the rooms occupied by me and the gallery passage leading from my family rooms alluded to and also directly to the machine shops. He understands Kennedy's needs for privacy and had hopes that they could compromise. Also, he understands his appropriation of the gallery

passageway that was formerly the Coiner's area, but losing the area has put an inconvenience upon me. His duties require back and forth to the machine shop and his family at this time is in delicate health and where he checks on them, he has to ascend and descend 40 feet of stairway, going around many times a day. He could not fully accede to your proposal to deprive me of my right of way. He wrote it seems the inconvenience that we both suffer is because your dwelling is between my dwelling and the Coining department. He suggested a change of premises, and sent Kennedy a detailed schematic of the move with each room detailed at present and for the projected move suggested by him. He felt the move would be conducive to both our privacy, and the function of my duties to and fro. And last he added another option if Kennedy did not agree to the original suggestion.

June 16th, - Kennedy to Patterson – report from Dr. Hort that he needs a new set of rolls differently constructed from those now in use. And Brooks informed him that Tyler is engaged in making all kinds of mint machinery, not only for the U. S. but foreign as well. Kennedy added that Brooks said that Tyler, with Patterson's permission, he will order them on a plan acceptable by both of us, which would alleviate any problems with machinery we have had before. Not doubting the ability of Tyler's work, Kennedy went and ordered the rolls from Tyler and the price paid to be approved by you. (Cost \$300)

June 18th, - Kennedy to Brooks – kind of a sharp response to Brooks' suggestion of exchange of dwelling rooms. Kennedy did not concur with Brooks' review and said that he did not listen to his own concerns for his family. He said that Brooks was at liberty to use the passageway and did not understand the complaint in this regard – it would not interfere with Kennedy's privacy. He finished with, "You have no right to enjoy complete and uninterrupted seclusion in your own house, and, as a matter of more personal convenience to invade the privacy of mine."

June 18th, - Kennedy to Brooks – He felt that what he has decided in this case is enough, but he said Brooks has refused voluntarily to my request. He wrote, now as Superintendent of this mint give appropriate each of the 3 passageways adjoining the rear of the 3 stories, constituting the dwelling of that officer, to his special and exclusive use, having in your possession, which such time I may require it myself, the room occupied by you up to the time of your appointment, and giving you, as another act of courtesy, of it be an accommodation, ingress to your department thru this passageway of the basement story of my residence, which you also are at liberty to use for domestic purposes. Through much deliberation, I have allowed even though the proper entrance should be the front door. Kennedy finished with "you have no right, to enjoy complete and uninterrupted seclusion in your own house, and, as a matter of more personal convenience to invade the privacy of mine."

June 19th, - Brooks to Hort and thru Kennedy – Brooks said that there are difficulties in the arrangement of pathways to officer domiciles in the mint. A pathway is closed to him so that he has to pass thru an unhealthy pass way which has litter, dirty clothes, etc. from

Hort's servant's quarters apparently. He felt he has a right for all passageways for his Coiner status. The present arrangement makes it quite difficult to protect his dies, bullion and coin from theft. And the day and night watch are hardly adequate especially when there is stormy weather. He said that it is most trying to guard all the dies, etc. when the weather is fine, but inclement weather and closed passage adds to my serious concerns. He finished with that a copy of this letter was sent to Kennedy. Brooks also added Kennedy's response to this letter that states that, "He would refer Brooks' letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, but his decision of the arrangement stands. Lastly – Brooks put his response and says he has regrets to the decision, but hopefully we can return to work together smoothly and tells Hort that his wife Mary sends love to all and his boy is doing well.

June 19th, - Brooks to Kennedy – in response to your 18th letter, said that Kennedy said that he as Superintendent has appropriated each of the 3 passages, or ways of adjoining the rear, of your dwelling to your "own special and exclusive use." But, these galleries are the only direct way from his Coiner's dwelling to his department. Brooks said the last 10 years he and his predecessor have enjoyed the easy access to the department. Said he respectfully protests against Kennedy's decision. He said you deprive me of important rights and privileges enjoyed without dispute by my predecessor while my appointment by the President authorizes and empowers me to have and to hold the rights of my office. He felt that Kennedy's argument is personable and is an unwarrantable infringement upon his rights. He did not feel appeased by Kennedy's temporary use of the basement passageway as "an act of contrary, permission to make of that passageway appropriate to your colored servants. By Kennedy's plan of self appropriation, Brooks would experience much inconvenience, embarrassment and loss of time in working hours, and a 24 hour concern for the safety of dies and such in his department." He felt he needed to keep a watchful eye of his department, day and night, because of the weak status of the vaults and the incompetent watchmen. When business increases at night, he has to be there and found it extremely difficult to make his way because of what he felt were so many obstacles.

June 19th, - Kennedy to Brooks – he is sending their correspondence on this issue to the Secretary to determine to whom the law belongs. My own decision stands.

June 19th, - Brooks to Kennedy – needs the correspondence for he feels he made a mistake in the plans and would need but a half hour to change it and send them back to you. Kennedy responded (same date letter back to Brooks) and said he would prefer that his original plan be sent separately with the other.

June 19th, - Brooks to Kennedy – wanted that the Director as well should know about this issue, and asked that copies of all sent to him as well. Felt the Secretary is busy enough, and would probably ask the Director for his opinion anyway.

June 19th, - Kennedy to Patterson – wrote that Patterson on more than one occasion

has declined to interfere with our residence issue without a decision from the Secretary. Kennedy was worried that Patterson would take Brooks side on this latest residency issue. Kennedy wrote, "I am afraid that our new Coiner, relies too much upon his being a great favorite with the Director."

June 22nd, - Brooks to Patterson – sent him a copy of his sketches.

June 28th, - Tyler (in Springfield) to Patterson – since he has been in Springfield he has received letters from Brooks with his complaints. He said that Brooks informed that, "his having been deprived of his servant rooms, his bath house (which was built expressly at his request and furnished at his own expense); and the use of the galleries leading from his house to his apartments in the mint." Tyler requested this most exceedingly, because it convinced him of the willingness of Kennedy to sacrifice the comfort of Brooks for his own personal interest, when it can encroach materially upon government interest. Giving the Coiner unnecessary trouble in getting to his apartments but occupy his time in thoughts, so unpleasant by endeavoring to protect his comforts against such selfish encroachment. Know Kennedy well and was sure that he will not consult Brooks comfort, or the family for his or his business, in arranging for his private wants. He finished that he needs to consult with Patterson on the rolls needed of Dr. Hort. However, after this he wishes no longer, after certain reasons, to no longer do any work for the New Orleans Mint, but would continue with Dr. Hort's request.

June 30th, - Tyler to Patterson – since all of this Brooks distractions have occurred, he felt it necessary that he will come to Philadelphia immediately – sooner than he expected. He was glad to see that this whole affair was now in front of the proper channels and hope that Brooks gets his fair shake. But, he feels that the conditions of the New Orleans mint as it stands right now, would make it difficult for any Coiner there.

June – there is no date with this private letter but assume that it was written in June from Kennedy to Brooks – Kennedy wrote that he worries about the health of his wife and children during this oppressive weather. He said that the upper part of his dwelling should become all the ventilation his dwelling needs, and it is desirable that it is thrown open. But, it could not be done without exposure to the busy back gallery above and the communication between the room lately occupied by you and Mr. Tyler's former residence. He believed that the room you now occupy gives you sufficient ample for your accommodation, and no longer requires this room referred to once Tyler's. It was temporarily detached from the Superintendent's dwelling, so that the communication of that room should be closed. Kennedy finished with he has written this with the best of feelings, on my part, and that his sole wish is to "secure his family, that privacy which I alone, of all the officers of the Mint, have so not enjoyed."

Two more letters from Brooks to Kennedy – of June 15th and the 19th, goes on and on

about the complaints he has, with really nothing new. Looks like a couple of these letters were twice copied for Newman's Portal.

July 3rd, - Tyler to Patterson – upon his arrival, he learned that Patterson was absent from the city and he immediately left for Washington. He had a discussion with the Secretary about a matter when he was Coiner and had some contract work done and did not ask for compensation. Said he didn't because of the cost involved. The Secretary said that Tyler should have pursued it. Also, Tyler did not bring up the Brooks issue because the Secretary had not yet received the correspondence. Said that it would be impossible to support Mr. Brooks without the material. But he did say that he feared that Kennedy might use his political influence and his superior position to be sustained in his encroachment upon Brooks. Tyler did add to the Secretary that he brought this up as a reason that Kennedy had refused to refer the question of dispute to the Director, who really understands the New Orleans mint building. He said the Secretary said that this matter should be referred to you.

July 5th, - Kennedy to Patterson – sent all the material of the communication between he and Brooks, and also that he had contacted the Secretary on the matter.

July 5th, - Kennedy to Walker – sent his entire retort against Brooks, and Brooks material. Besides having in this letter material already noted, Kennedy added this that Brooks' residence is only 30 feet from his place of business. He felt his (Brooks) residence is away from the inclement weather. Said it takes him less than 1 minutes time to go to his department. Said the Sub-Treasurer in New Orleans is not provided a dwelling in the mint. Some days ago he added to the night guard, consists now of 4 able bodied men. The Captain of the Watch himself patrols the mint nightly and the guards (watchmen) are not sleeping. Said that Brooks has only a young child, while he (Kennedy) has a large family with 3 grown daughters. He insists that he requires the 2 galleries because it fronts the dining area and frequently hears the language of the Coiner and his workers as an affront to his wife and daughters. Lastly, he had given Brooks a passageway by his previous to go to his duties. Said Brooks insists on his privileges, but they must be reasonable privileges.

July 9th, - Patterson to Kennedy – in response to all the material on the Kennedy and Brooks affair – Patterson washes his hands of the whole thing and wishes that the 2 parties will come to a compromise. He understands the difficulties involved living in a manufactory, and the loss of privacy of families, but you must settle this yourselves, to the satisfaction of all.

July 16th, - Patterson to Kennedy – we have found that the assay rolls asked for by Hort are well made here and at a cheaper price than Tyler is charging for the same work. Our staff, Mr. Peale (Chief Coiner), Mr. G. Eckfeldt, and myself feel that the rolls manufactured here locally will meet Hort's needs at \$160.

July 25th, - Kennedy to Patterson – once again the dwelling issue and this is a 4 page letter in mostly of complaint of his Coiner's (Brooks) actions. Kennedy does add this, "I hope you will pardon me for expressing my surprise, and mortification, that you have been troubled with this reference, and that the case has required, after my letter to the Department, a moment's hesitation, the question appears to me to be so plain a one. You have, on one side, an inferior (his underline) officer, enjoying perfect and uninterrupted seclusion and privacy in his own dwelling, claiming in addition to this, for the sake of his own 'domestic convenience and facilities', a right of passage which he does not require for official purposes, by which the interests of the mint cannot in any degree be promoted, and which he cannot enjoy without violating the same rights of another." Kennedy repeats his need for privacy for his 10 member family in his dwelling, and emphasizes his status as Superintendent to have the first and foremost rights of his position, and on and on in this letter.

July 28th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Dr. Hort accepts the manufacture of his needed assay rolls at Philadelphia. Hort explained that his old rolls throw oil by the journals, and they are uneven, and too much worn to bear.

August 4th, - Tyler (Springfield) to Patterson – 2 months ago he had completed an ingot machine for New Orleans. After completing the machine I found that there was an added cost, but decided to not charge the extra in hope of acquiring more work for New Orleans. Charge for the machine was \$500 plus 3 sets of moulds. The machine was reported to work perfectly and could expect payment shortly. I sent my agent there to receive it and was rejected for payment by the Superintendent – on the grounds that it was more than the machine was estimated to cost when, or before, it was ordered. I had an estimate of \$350, but that was with one set of moulds. Kennedy said that he would have to submit the bill, but Tyler said that he believed that Kennedy did not submit the bill to anyone. This machine had been talked about for several years and we, Melter/Refiner Dr. Riddell, felt it quite practical. He said the bill should have been \$600 for all the work, but I only charged \$500. He has awaited payment for all his and his workers efforts to make a great product and for a long amount of time. He added that a milling machine for New Orleans is now finished, but holding it here until I see a reimbursement of the previous machine's bill.

August 6th, - Patterson to Tyler – receipt of your letter on ingot machine, and let you know the Superintendent has the final say. However, I have written him a letter about your concerns.

August 6th, - Patterson to Kennedy – you are mistaken that I have an ongoing correspondence with Brooks. All I have is what he sent, and my response of receiving with the decision left up to you two. Also, Patterson forwarded the info on the ingot machine from Tyler. He asked to notify him of the machine's success, but the decision is left to you unless you ask for my advice.

August 15th, - Kennedy to Patterson – concerned that Patterson will accept Brooks room adjustment proposal. But Kennedy does offer a suggestion, “It has occurred to me the matter may be arranged, at a reasonable expense, by adding an outside gallery of 2 or 3 feet to those of the 2nd and 3rd stories, and should this mode of adjusting the difficulty meet with your expectations, I beg that you will obtain the sanction of the Secretary.”

August 24th, - Riddell to Patterson – a 4 page letter to support the excellent workings of the new ingot machine from Tyler. Feels the bit of added expense for its manufacture far more worth the expense that is already saving the government in more solid bars, ease of production for coinage, etc. Sent two daguerreotypes of the machine.

August 31st, - Patterson to Walker – 4 page letter explaining all the correspondence, and Brooks’ plan, that he just sent. And, all the reasons for the complaints from both parties. Felt that Walker might prefer to Superintendent Kennedy and confirm the right of way for Brooks through the middle gallery as heretofore.

September 1st, - Brooks to Patterson (3 page letter) – writing for his support in this dwelling matter and adds this, “I cannot refrain from stating to you the fact that my beloved wife is now laying dangerously very ill of Yellow Fever in the same fatal room in which her Father, (Rufus Tyler), her brother, and my cousin died. My boy, who is now 3 months old, it was found necessary to place him with a nurse in my bed and bathroom so that his cries may not disturb his mother. When he is sick either in the night or daytime, I cannot get to him without going out of doors and passing around and up through the body or working part of the mint, as my gallery passageway has been closed off with a strong partition.” Brooks felt that since it has been closed it may have caused my family to be more exposed to the epidemic. He also added that he has no foreman right now and the work is arduous.

September 5th, - Kennedy to Patterson – sent the two daguerreotypes of the ingot machine. (these two images were not in these particular records)

September 13th, - Patterson to Brooks – received your letter and had hoped that Mrs. Brooks, being a long time resident, would have been immune to contracting the fever. Patterson has sent Brooks’ info to the Secretary and awaiting reply. Lastly, we are engaged in making a new hub for the eagle dies, in the hope that neither your or we will be further troubled.

September 15th, - Kennedy to Patterson – apparently the Yellow Fever is not as prevalent, so we are not closing at this time.

September 16th, - Patterson to Brooks – learned of your wife Mary’s demise from a letter. I was apparent that Mrs Tyler, her mother, did not know she was sick, when she saw her out in the street. Her anxiety was great of course, and she made her contacts and found out the distressing news.

September 24th, - Brooks to Patterson – responding to his letter and his remorse of his wife's death. They had a strong marriage, and is at least thankful that his young son is okay. He adds with the fact that the Secretary ruled in the Superintendent's favor to have exclusive rights to the upper gallery as he understands it.

October 5th, - Kennedy to Patterson – increased the salary of all the clerks to \$1800 per year for the hard work they undertake. Also, he does not want to lose them for better pay elsewhere.

October 6th – Kennedy to Patterson – Riddell requests 1,000 furnace fire bricks – something of this shape (illustrated in records) that he drew in the letter. (page 544, Entry 11, 1846, 2nd box) Also, fire tiles. Said that Hort expressed his obligation for the new rolls, and said they are all he desired – getting rid of all the difficulties he complained of.

October 20th, - Patterson to Kennedy – cannot agree on the salary raise of all his clerks. I, myself, have failed to get approval for same here, but I did get one clerk's salary raised. His clerks only get \$1,000 per year, so your request to increase may not succeed. Lastly, he wrote that he is glad that Hort's new rolls work well.

October 22nd – Patterson to Walker – That New Orleans with its increased coinage this year has brought open expense more than the appropriation. There is a \$9,200 deficit – application for an increase is required.

November 2nd, - Brooks to Patterson – appreciates his last kind letter but apologizes for the late response for his health has not been good. Been unable to attend to business, but had not the health to respond till now. Looks upon his loss as a matter of resignation, and all his attention is to his little son. The fire bricks have arrived and furnace repaired, also the rolls from Tyler have worked well. Now milling machine has arrived and is in the process of putting up.

November 11th, - Patterson to Kennedy – to the Brooks' building case – I feel that the Coiner's family should have a bathroom and a change of bathrooms may be in order. Brooks' right of way then the middle gallery should remain as heretofore. If it is to be used as deterrent to the family from the to and fro of persons not of the Coiner's household, I think you would have reason for complaint. Hoped that Brooks would present that kind of communication.

Coinage of 1847

January 27th, - Patterson to the U.S. President – the New Orleans Branch Mint, the coinage amounted to \$2,483,800, comprising \$1,272,800 in gold, and \$1,211.000 in silver,

and composed 2,578,780 pieces (For 1846).

January – eagles and $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars coined.

February – eagles and $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars coined.

March 23rd, - Kennedy to Patterson – asked for \$1,000 in copper coin since there has been much demand for them since the passage of the late postage law. Frequent demands for them have been made to the Post Master in other parts of the state and Western Country.

March – eagles, $\frac{1}{2}$ eagles, and $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars coined.

March 26th, Riddell to Kennedy – with six men in his department and a lot of luck, they could prepare 700,000 ounces of silver and coinage from such could reach \$400,000. For gold – 350,000 ounces of ingots to produce \$4,000,000 in gold coin.

March 27th, - Philos Tyler to Kennedy – responding to your letter on how many coins could be made in one month in New Orleans. With 14 men – eagles alone coined could be \$3,000,000; half eagles \$2,000,000; quarter eagles \$2,000,000. If silver dollars \$600,000. If gold and silver linked – amount could be \$2,000,000 in silver. Improvements in machinery will only improve efficiency.

March 30th, - Kennedy to Walker – sent the report from his officers on the potential of the mint departments for production.

April 8th, - Kennedy to Patterson – the following dies were canceled: dollars 3 heads; $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar 10 pairs; $\frac{1}{4}$ dollar 2 heads; dimes 1 head; $\frac{1}{2}$ dime 1 head; eagles 6 pair; $\frac{1}{2}$ eagle 5 heads and 1 tail; $\frac{1}{4}$ eagle 4 heads and 2 tails. Several tails were reserved for most denominations and announced the receipt of 6-1/2 dollar tail dies.

April 21st, - Walker to Patterson – Post Master requests that \$1,000 in cents be sent to New Orleans – who will pay for the same and transportation? Cost \$1,021.50.

April – eagles and $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars coined.

May 19th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Request from Brooks to send 3 pair of eagle dies as soon as possible.

May 29th, - Patterson to Kennedy – sending the first of a series of 3 pair eagle dies. But does question the amount of his requested versus the output. Patterson said that they have coined 213,689 eagles with just 2 pair of dies, and they are still in use, and uninjured. You have used 3 pairs of eagle dies for a much smaller output. The number for 4 months

98,000. He could not approve of the employ of Mr. Tyler to produce scales and weights for your mint – to be made at Washington – and the scale beams made here. But will make further inquiry into the matter.

May – eagles, halves, and quarters coined.

June 22nd, - Kennedy to Patterson – received 3 pair eagle dies. Said that the difference in the life of the dies between Philadelphia and New Orleans is from our comparative inexperience than to anything like negligence or carelessness.

June – eagles, halves, and quarters struck.

July 6th, - Kennedy to Patterson – info from Brooks that upon receipt of 4 eagle dies and many others received have indentations, as though they had been accidentally bruised or filed, or both. Yes, he has to grind away some material but sometimes he had to grind away some of the engraved details and as a consequence they do not last as long. Could these be sent back to the Director for his examination? Kennedy felt that these dies, sent by messenger from the Post Office, that when unpacking them, Brooks found one box completely not soldered at one end, and another at both – the 3rd was in good condition.

July 16th, - Patterson to Kennedy – we have found an answer to the eagle dies, that we have the same problem with soft dies at Philadelphia. The head for the eagle dies is certainly rather shallow, and unequal in depth. By particular case in polishing down as he did on the basins, they can be made satisfactory. Attention must be made not to make any part, particularly the letters and hair too shallow. He felt that by the further experience of Mr. Brooks will correct the problem. He has looked at the Brooks proposal for dwellings, and will examine it further, but hopes the parties will compromise on the issue.

July – Eagles, quarter eagles, and half dollars coined.

August – Eagles, Halves, quarters struck.

September – Eagles, quarter eagles, halves and quarters coined.

October 9th, - Kennedy to Patterson – includes a note from one of their banks in the city concerning a counterfeit half eagle. The Bank of Louisiana sent a runner to the mint to pay a transfer draft – brought gold to make the payment – during counting of same, the runner picked out a half eagle and claimed it counterfeit. Mr. Macmurdo thought it was genuine, but took it to Dr. Riddell to see if it was authentic – which was found to be 6 grams light. A genuine was brought to compare and found to be wider than the genuine. Taken to assay department (coin was an 1844 Philadelphia half eagle) and found to contain only 50% gold and alloyed with some silver and copper, also galvanized or gilded with fine

gold. Workmanship good, but nonetheless worth about \$2.50. 2 more of these were found recently.

October 30th, - Patterson to Walker – since the cost of sending dies to New Orleans is considerable – our foreman, George Eckfeldt, has offered to send the 54 pair of dies required by New Orleans personally. His cost will be \$120 for the trip versus \$390 for the dies postage. (Entry 11, 1847, page 58 has a complete breakdown, by denomination and package cost for shipping)

October – Eagles, quarter eagles, halves, and quarters coined.

November 4th, - Kennedy to Patterson – sending back quarter eagle and agree on the assessment of it. He said he received your thoughts on increase of salaries for his clerks, and will still make the attempt.

November 9th, - Riddell to Patterson – clarifying his statement on the counterfeit sent them to look over. My original remarks were, “Counterfeit half eagle of 1846 – the Philadelphia Mint – dies genuine!” What I meant was that having no mintmark it was therefore a counterfeit of the issue from the Philadelphia Mint. Before I wrote those remarks, Brooks and he came to the conclusion that the piece bore no evidence of being struck in the mint.

November 13th, - Patterson to Kennedy – tries to answer several questions brought forward by Kennedy as far as operations of each department concerning prep work and the cost. For his mint, the Coiner is considered the housekeeper of the mint by the use of soap for scrubbing – cost of soap \$36 for 1846-47. Salt, only used by Melter and Refiner costs \$64.20. Lard is used by M/R for casting of silver ingots – cost \$17.48 in periods. Oil is used for the machinery, brought by the Coiner – used in ingot moulds in melting gold. Two periods cost \$147.52. Tallow \$32.88; charcoal 1846-7 - \$1125.62.

November 15th, - Walker to Patterson – again approves the use of a messenger to pick up the dies from Philadelphia and take them with him to New Orleans.

November 18th, - Kennedy to Patterson – a few days ago our Treasurer received \$33,000 in Mexican dollars. They were spread over the floor and thoroughly mixed. Hort, without a melt, upon careful examination, reported 897 fine as a proper title for the assemblage. Melter/Refiner could not accept until they were officially melted, which will be done, and in the end Hort was correct in his estimate.

November 22nd, - George Eckfeldt has volunteered to take the dies to the branch mint himself for the year of 1848. He will be leaving by the Ohio River route. He will be carrying a total of 53 pairs of dies. He received an advance of \$150.

November – eagles, quarter eagles, and halves coined.

December 8th, - Brooks reports the receipt from George Eckfeldt of 106 dies (53 pair) on this date for the 1848 year.

December 8th, - Kennedy to Patterson – let him know that George Eckfeldt arrived safely on the 7th and will be leaving on the 9th.

December – eagles and halves coined.

No coinage of half dimes or dimes this year. Quarter and Half Dollars struck as well as all gold denominations.

The Year of 1848

January 4th, - Kennedy to Patterson – it is apparent that Riddell is on the chopping block by this letter. Kennedy said a Mr. Bertrand declared his commission of M/R on grounds (rest of this letter is mostly unreadable from the poor handwriting)

January 11th, - Patterson to Kennedy – said that he had calls at the mint from Bonzano of Riddell's intentions to resign. When does he intend to do so? Bonzano would like the position and has heard that Riddell would like his brother to replace him. Patterson said that he has heard it asserted that Riddell deals in deposits, and acts, to a certain extent, the part of a bullion broker at the mint. Is this true? We are making a set of adjusting weights for you at our mint.

January 28th, - Kennedy to Patterson – had a conversation with Riddell and it seems likely that he would resign at the end of the year. Said that he has property that is rented until November 1st, when he thought it was earlier on April 1st. Riddell said a few words about his brother who he suggests on his successor. Riddell is currently the Chair of Chemistry at the 'Medical College'. Dr. Hort, friends with Riddell, said that Riddell has a two hundred thousand dollar fortune and a large portion is from his rentals. Hort also said that Riddell has too many private matters to attend to. Independent of his duties at the mint, he has to perform as Professor of Chemistry at the College – taking most of his time. Kennedy added here, "Public confidence in him, is, I am sorry to say, not what it should be." Felt that his accounts seem to be okay, in this he may be honest or not. "His integrity in the department has been questioned. I write this in a confidential matter, and hope that in no way it effects the peace of our establishment."

February 3rd, - Thomas Durant (Louisiana District Attorney) to Walker – after read-

ing the 2 newspaper reports on counterfeit coin. He felt that Patterson was mistaken that the dies were not from the mint from the evidence derived by him from a former employee of the New Orleans mint, C. C. Lyons. Said that Lyons is a dentist residing in New Orleans, and thru an acquaintance, may have some light on the counterfeit coin. Lyons informed the Attorney that he worked in the milling department and said that at various times his fellow workers, returning to work the next day, said that their tools were misplaced and had been used overnight. He accused Philos Tyler when Coiner had his brother, Lucius Tyler, and a nephew, George Tyler, working in the department. Claimed that Lucius had a skeleton key, manufactured by himself, which he used to open all the work rooms. He claimed Philos had a galvanic battery in his room to coat various metals in gold. Felt Lucius was of immoral character. Durant felt that C. C. Lyons was very truthful.

February 6th, - Kennedy to Patterson – asked for one thousand cupels for the Assay department, twelve months ago, we ordered a large amount from Paris – and we cannot account for it not being received.

February 18th, - Patterson to Kennedy – sent a copy of the letter from Attorney Durant, and asked Kennedy to make a full investigation into the matter.

March 2nd, - Patterson to Acting Secretary of the Treasury – M. C. Young – He has sent the Durant letter to Kennedy and he is to investigate. Though I will say that the quarter eagle counterfeit had the O mintmark, while the eagle did not. So the eagle could not have been struck in New Orleans. Plus the gold on the counterfeits were found to be of the British Standard.

March 2nd, - Patterson to Kennedy – have sent you a copy of a 2nd letter (not in the records) which is a sequel to the first. However, Mr. Eckfeldt here has assayed the counterfeits and determined they are of British origin.

March 8th, - Hort to Patterson – with the results of the gold assay presented, Hort was concerned that he would be replaced as Assayer. Instead of that would be the case, he would rather resign. It is apparent that the gold assay by the Commission found some discrepancies that Hort had already explained.

March 9th, Kennedy to Patterson – response to Brooks letter that he will push the investigation no further unless Patterson wants it done. However, the skeleton key mentioned does not open the coining room where the presses are. He has not called upon Lyons, and was disturbed with the fact the Attorney approached him to determine the ‘real facts’.

March 10th, - Kennedy to Patterson – after talking to Hort about your letter of concur about the gold assay, he became quite emotional and thought he could clear himself. If not cleared, he would resign. In the meantime, Riddell proposed to Bonzano to hand him the

resignation of both he and Hort if he would change his application into one for the Assayer, and pay Dr. Hort \$1500 - \$500 now in cash and balance in 4 equal installments, and if he would also recommend Riddell's brother for M/R. And procure for him support of members of the Medical College who had signed in his favor. Bonzano properly declined. I felt it my duty to send this info to you that has bearing on the subject. Felt that Hort as not a part of this and would rather he be retained. When it comes to Riddell – "Let the facts tell their own tale."

March 14th, - Kennedy to Albert Mitchell (former New Orleans Mint employee – who was removed) – Kennedy wanted to know from his investigation to what was the problem with Philos Tyler and it was hostile. He would like an answer ASAP.

March 17th, - Riddell to Kennedy – he desired his brother, George Riddell, who is well informed of the department to be his foreman. His current foreman, Mr. Hibbert, is retiring, but Brooks is trying to hire him as a machinist. Says many things in support of his brother and asks for a \$3.50 per day salary for him.

March 18th, - Kennedy to Riddell – accepts the appointment of his brother, George, to be foreman in his M/R department, but the compensation you ask is too high. Max in your department is \$3.00 per diem. In the coining department, two men have made \$3.50 per day but that was mandated from the beginning of the establishment and they have earned their keep. Thus, George will be at \$3.00 per diem.

March 18th, - Kennedy to Patterson – had talked to Bonzano, and he said Riddell, after Bonzano had rejected Riddell's offer, that Riddell asked "what he would take to waive his application to be M/R.

March 29th, - Patterson reports to Kennedy that a Mr. Lyon has reported a counterfeit gold coin was struck at New Orleans. One, a half eagle actually was an imitation of a Philadelphia issue while a quarter eagle imitated a New Orleans issue.

March 30th, Kennedy reports that dies from 1847 (Eagle to half dimes) were canceled, with no obverses reserved for use in 1848 (Entry 11, 1848, page 4)

April 8th, - a clerk of the Criminal Court of the 1st District of New Orleans reported first that he was the clerk from 1843 to 1846 to Kennedy and that the counterfeit gold coin in question above came by way of a Mr. Orlando H. Willis, who was caught with several hundred dollars of half and quarter eagles. And the dies taken from his group were ordered by the court to be thrown into the Mississippi River. They also had a number of engravers tools. Willis was sentenced to 3 years hard labor in the Penitentiary of Baton Rouge, LA. He noted that the most recent counterfeit discovered are different than the ones from Willis's gang.

April 15 – Patterson wrote to Secretary of the Treasury, R. J. Walker, that Melter and Refiner, Riddell, was responsible for the deficiency in standard of gold, in the coinage of 1847, amounting to about \$12,000. I could not be proven that he did this for his own benefit, but still the “grounds of suspicion against him so strong as to make his removal from the responsible office which he holds, at least desirable, if not an absolute duty. I have been informed that he has declared his intention of resigning, also this so openly that candidates have been seeking for his place.”

April 15 – A similar letter was sent to the U. S. President from Patterson, explaining all the facts of above and finishes with: “I believe that I have here laid before you all the information that is in my power to give regarding the circumstance of this painful case. The course which remains to be taken is by law committed to your decision.”

April 17th – Patterson to Kennedy – wrote that the “dateless” half dollar die sent you should be destroyed and Philadelphia will send you a replacement.

April 28th – a Mr. Albert Mitchell to Patterson in response to a letter concerning the use of inappropriate language used by Philos Tyler to him in the winter of 1843 and 1844. Somehow, he ties in Tyler with the possible counterfeit quarter eagles. Mitchell wrote that in his coining department (Mitchell worked there at some time) that Philos and his brother were working with a small Galvanic Battery and inside were badly injured quarter eagle dies. Mitchell didn’t question them until he late found in the liquid of the battery a struck gold piece suspended in the liquid. The next Spring, he was told by a visitor to the coining dept. that he had a counterfeit quarter eagle and knew of 30 more which he found in a privy in the city. The visitor gave Mitchell the piece, and it looked to be struck from his previously injured dies. Mitchell then showed the piece to Tyler and Tyler was astonished as it being so like our coins, and wanted the piece. Mitchell held onto it and an argument ensued that Mitchell had no right to it. Mitchell put it into his chest, but later relented and gave it to Tyler, who subsequently went to Philadelphia and gave it to Director Patterson. Mitchell finished his letter by writing that Tyler had employed a workman at low wages.

May 13th, - Kennedy to Patterson – announcing an interruption of coinage for 3-4 weeks because badly worn 28 foot long steam boilers had to be replaced. They were badly worn and rusted, and determined to be unfit and dangerous.

May 17th, - Kennedy to Patterson – disputes the insinuations that quarter eagle counterfeits were struck at the New Orleans mint by Mr. Lyons and Mr. Mitchell.

May 18th, - Riddell to Kennedy – asked for leave of absence to work at the University and his brother (George the foreman) to work at the mint and live in his place at the mint. It will be for at least the summer. Kennedy in answer, approves the leave and the substitution of his brother in his place.

May 25th, Kennedy reported new boilers installed, operations renewed.

May 26th, - Patterson to Kennedy – that after consultation with the President and Secretary that Riddell will be removed without delay and Dr. Hort would temporarily take his place. However, as will be seen later in this Treatise that Riddell retained his position, but things were turning against him in the near future.

May 29th, - Patterson to Kennedy that he is unsure of the statements against Tyler by Mitchell since Tyler is no longer coiner and does not feel there are sufficient grounds.

May 31st, Kennedy to Secretary Walker – asked for permission to make some changes to building to enhance communication between departments and establish some privacy for its residents.

June 3rd, - Coiner Brooks proposes to put new boilers in the basement at the center of the building. Kennedy disagrees (and notes a few reasons) – one of which it would not be safe for working in that position and even for visitors. Boilers to stay where they are.

June 12th, - Patterson to Kennedy – if you plan to close during the summer for the Fever, we can take some employees up here in Philadelphia.

June 29th, - Coiner Brooks left for the North because of the possible summer closure of the mint, and visit Patterson at Philadelphia. Foreman Brown to take over coining dept.

August 1st, - Secretary Walker approves closure of the mint in September.

October 2nd, - Brooks to Patterson – arrived back with dies for 1849 in hand on October 1st. He had a tedious journey of 15 days. He also brought adjusting balances with him.

October 25th, - This letter in addition to the complaints against Riddell – no answer from his dept. from the Mint Treasurer, McMurdo, on the results from melting Mexican dollars for the silver of coinage.

November 7th, - Kennedy to Riddell – that Riddell has abandoned his residence and given it to his foreman, which is against regulations as only officers of the mint are entitled. Kennedy said that he allowed Riddell to take residence in Carrollton, Louisiana for the summer months, but after he returned he did not make accommodations for a new Melter/Refiner officer and left it abandoned. Kennedy also wrote that you (Riddell) had repeated absences from his dept. with reasons for not being there, not sickness nor anything else. It presented a problem in this period to find his successor.

November 8th, - Riddell to Kennedy in response to November 7th letter above. Riddell said that Kennedy was misinformed of when he was at the mint. Said he was at the

mint every work day except for 2 exceptions. Have been at the mint for 7 years with no foreman. But this year had one and asked for some res pit last summer which was granted. During this time, he didn't feel it necessary to be at the mint more than 3 times per week. Presently, I took the other time to furnish material for the new medical section of the University, and had lodging nearby. Worked at the college from 6 am to 8 am and came to the mint at 9 am, and worked until 11 or 12. Then returned to the college and after dinner returned to the mint until 9 pm. The medical college at Louisiana University is very important to him. He had confidence with his foreman (brother Dr. George Riddell) that he let George and his family live in his residence in the mint. The mint residence was fine for George's family, but not for mine. The residence a bit small for my family and no room for servant quarters. Plus repairs need to be made. He said the other officers residing in the mint have had upgrades to their quarters, but not his. Said his work at the University will end by Christmas, and if the upgrade is done for the mint residence, he will return to stay there. He would like the residence as equal to the Coiner's and Superintendents. Last, he has felt that he has accomplished his duties at the mint in an exemplary manner. And, in a postscript, Riddell added this: "The biggest reason why I allowed his brother's family to move into the mint was because a lot of charcoal in the air at their previous residence was making their infant child ill." (Entry 11, 1848, page 207)

November 18th, no author or recipient listed – Riddell's report on gold wastage questioned but no official proof. Suspension of him suggested.

November 23rd, - Patterson to Walker – Riddell is not paying attention to his duties and the other officers are not pleased with him for this reason and others. Suggest replacing him.

November 24th, - Kennedy to Patterson – he has decided to hold against Riddell the one of loss in his M/R dept. of weight after melting for the gold assay.

December 7th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Kennedy very upset that the President decided to keep Riddell in position when he has caused a discord amongst the officers, especially with the Assayer and himself. Urges Riddell's removal and replacement for him shortly.

December 12th, - Walker to Patterson – reminding Patterson of their meeting with the President that the Louisiana delegation wanted their named replacement for Riddell and not who you (Patterson) wanted – causing a delay. He wants an understanding from Patterson about the removal of Riddell, the name also of his replacement to put before the President.

December 14th, - Kennedy to Patterson – said that he had received a letter from Walker reporting Riddell's dismissal. Walker wrote, "You will take care that the duties of Melter/Refiner of the mint are no longer performed by him, and in the meantime, you will take such steps as well prevent any injury to the public interest." Kennedy added in the letter that the M/R was closed at this point and Riddell ordered to make a final settlement.

December 14th, - Patterson to Kennedy – said that he has been informed of Riddell's dismissal and has a person in mind to fill the position. Name is Dr. Joule (?) Farnham – a man of science, excellent personal character, integrity and experience. He was once Assayer at Dahlonega, but resigned.

December 23rd, - Kennedy to Patterson – in a postscript to this letter, Kennedy informs that Cholera is on an increase in the city – will keep you informed.

December 26th, - Patterson to Kennedy – now report that a Mr. P. A. Bertrand may be appointed to the M/R position.

December 29th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Riddell informed Kennedy that he (Riddell) had written Walker asking for reasons for his dismissal as he was, “unable himself to conjure any.”

Coinage of 1848

January 14th, - Patterson to U. S. President – New Orleans coinage amounted to \$7,469,000 – composing \$6,085,000 in gold and \$1,384,000 in silver – making 3,659,500 pieces.

January 26th, - Kennedy to Patterson – attached local newspaper reports of the recent counterfeit coin (The New Orleans Commercial Times). He was alright with the reports with some reservations on the worry of the banks and public about them.

January – this is an 18 page letter from Dr. Hort (starting on page 660 – Entry 11, 1846, 2nd box). The letter concerns the acceptance of the Mexican dollars for deposit at the mint, and will not be repeated here in full – just a synopsis.

Hort said that several years now that the Mexican pesos were at a standard of 897 fine – and met that level for the most part, except for our diligent watch for counterfeits. We, M/R and myself have had particular trouble with a new Treasurer at the Treasury who does not agree with our results despite our years of experience, and his of little experience. This Treasurer wants an attainment of 899 which can seldom be accomplished. Nothing seems to satisfy him. Some figures did reach 900 and slightly more, but within were several counterfeits averages 600-700 fine. Finished with, “It is apparent than that we had no evidence to prove that there existed a difference or variation of 2M in the title of Mexican dollars at this mint or in Philadelphia, because in the case of revision, there were mixed dollars and counterfeits. (Further explanations are written at length, but will not be repeated here) A letter in support of Hort's explanation is included on page 673.

January 31st, - Hort to Patterson – have directed the weighing clerk to deliver no portion of a deposit (whether for test melt or otherwise) to the M/R without it being first seen

by the Assayer. It will insure a proper description of deposits, and I for see no cause of difficulty between the Assayer and Treasurer.

January – only eagles coined.

February – Eagles, half dollars, and half dimes coined. (all the 600,000 half dimes for the year were coined this month)

March 3rd, - Hort to Kennedy (a 5 page letter) – he felt much surprised at the results of the Assay Commission from the gold coins of this mint. He was not aware of any variations in the gold melts here, and trust the calculations. Said that a re-assay of one gold bar gave a different fineness at one end of it to another – a difference of 2 tenths. Since we receive British and French gold coin to be melted for coin – the variations could result from there.

March 4th, - Brooks to Kennedy – has a copy of the complaint again Philos Tyler, members of his family by Lyons. Said that Brooks thought of Lyons being a “dishonest and hypocritical rascal.” Disputes the Lyons’ claim that he was away a lot, when he was on duty days and nights and enjoying the company of Tyler when he was foreman (Brooks), and actually resided in the same room with his brother Lucius. All Lyons’ accusations against Tyler are false. The dies after hours use claim is impossible. The skeleton key has always been used in this mint by the Coiner and his foreman to save the trouble of carrying a load of keys. And because of the humidity here and potential damage to machinery, that key is accessible for the machinist if repair is needed. As far as the unexplained use of the tools overnight, is because they were. Lyons used to come in late in the mornings. Also it was the Coiner’s duty to inspect all machinery and tools after hours for proper maintenance. Galvanic butlers have always been used in the mints for the officers to keep abreast of the scientific improvements of the day as they were openly performed. Tyler’s relatives have never been accused of Lyons’ falsehoods, and considers Lucius as a kindhearted and hard working man.

March 16th, - Hort to Kennedy – have carefully examined counterfeit 1844 half eagle assumed to be struck in Philadelphia. The external plating of gold separated and cleaned – 901.8-902 fineness. Silver is an alloy- 40M. To the best of his judgment, the stamp is genuine. “The coin must be a different counterfeit from the one assayed in Philadelphia by Mr. Eckfeldt, the title of which I reported 915M.

March 22nd, - Kennedy to Patterson – the half eagle here listed as a counterfeit, did not have a mintmark, and was actually dated 1845. In addition, Brooks would like to know what to do with an undated half dollar die. What shall we do with it, and will not have the deficiency taken care of here without your consent.

March 24th, - Patterson to Young (Acting Secretary of the Treasury) – the counterfeit coin noted before is of British standard gold, which does not mean that American counterfeiters would most likely not use it. Lastly, I believe there is no sufficient ground to continue on Mr. Lyons' complaints.

March – only half dollars struck – 420,000 pieces.

In the month of April the mint struck 240,000 half dollars and 2,000 Eagles. Six pair of 1848 Half Eagle dies were available but never used. In fact, the only gold coin produced this year was the Eagle to the tune of 35,580 pieces.

May – only Eagles and ½ dollars struck.

June – only Eagles and ½ dollars struck.

July – only Eagles and ½ dollars struck.

August – only ½ dollars struck.

October 13th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Coiner Brooks arrived back to New Orleans on the first and in his possession, after receiving them in Philadelphia, 81 dies – 1 head dollar; 12 pairs of halves; 6 head quarters; 6 head Eagles; 6 head ½ eagles; 12 head ¼ eagles; 12 head dimes; 12 head half dimes.

October – only struck eagles and ½ dollars.

November – only eagles and ½ dollars struck.

December – Eagles and halves only struck. No dimes, no quarters, no dollars were coined at the New Orleans Mint for the entire year of 1848. Half dimes were struck to the tune of 600,000 pieces for the year – the only other silver coin produced was the high mintage of halves at 3,180,000 pieces. On the gold side – only Eagles were struck for the year – 35,850 pieces.

The Year of 1849

January 1, 1849 John Riddell replaced as Melter/Refiner with Pierre Auguste Bertrand.

January 4th, - Bertrand withdraws from his appointment as Melter/Refiner.

January 6th, - Kennedy to Patterson – He believed that Riddell was endeavoring to

impress his late workmen in the idea that I have done them great injustice by talking badly about the M/R employees behind their backs. Kennedy strongly denied those possible accusations.

January 11th, - Patterson to Walker – Bertrand declines appointment to M/R and recommends Joseph M. Farnum. He had an advantageous offer to be an Assayer with Mr. Howland and Aspinwall in California, but would rather work at New Orleans.

January 26th, Patterson to Walker – there is a painful situation at New Orleans because they have not been able to operate since December 14th, without a Melter/Refiner. Are there any other candidates for the position since Dr. Furnham may take a position elsewhere outside of mint service?

January 29th, A Mr. Caleb G. Forshey applies for the M/R position, a resident of New Orleans, who felt that Riddell's discrepancies were incorrect. He also lists names of support for his application for M/R. He added, his friends said that he should also apply for the Superintendency of the Mint since Kennedy was not 'scientifically qualified'.

February 8th, - M. F. Bonzano is appointed by the President as M/R.

February 17th, - Kennedy wrote Patterson that he will be leaving to go to Philadelphia on the 20th per order of the Treasury Secretary. (New administration in Washington, and Kennedy concerned of keeping his position)

March 3rd, - Mint Treasurer Macmurdo explained to the First Comptroller McCulloch that the reason that the M/R purchased 20,000 copper cents from Philadelphia is that he had no other source of copper to alloy with gold.

March 12th, - Mint Treasurer Macmurdo to Patterson – reported that Bonzano has been well received. Dr. Hort Assayer, and Bonzano have supplied Coiner Brooks with ingots of good quality for coining.

March 21st, - Temporary Supt. Hort to Patterson – Since there was no M/R for months of January and February no ingots were provided for the Coiner thus no coinage for those months. Added that Bonzano is a very efficient officer and began to cast ingots on the 28th of February.

March 28th, Supt Kennedy asked to close one door of his residence in the mint and cause 2 other doors to be built to improve ventilation, and added that it would not affect the solidity of the building. He also requested the planting of bushes by the outside iron railing to prevent gawking by the public.

March 31st, - Riddell to Patterson – wanted a full explanation for his removal. Wanted to talk with Secretary Walker since the plan was he would come to New Orleans last year, but Riddell said he only went as far as Georgia. Riddell felt that because of his removal that his reputation was at stake.

William M. Meredith appointed new Secretary of the Treasury.

April 28th, - Kennedy learns that he will keep his position according to U. S. President Taylor.

July 10th, - Patterson to Kennedy – your request for temporarily ceasing of operations because of painting is denied. If it had been for reasons of epidemic, or building or machinery, my decision would probably have been otherwise.

June 30th, - Kennedy to Patterson – wrote that the mint needs to be repainted and repaired from one end to the other for “its own preservation from decay”. He figured two months for the work – 1st of August to the 1st of October, and operations would have to be suspended. Need permission to do so.

July 24th, - Each officer in the mint supplied requests for repairs to the mint beginning with Coiner John Brooks – He said in consequence of the settling of the building, our steam engine and main shafting requires relieving and repairing, and the flooring in the rolling room needs renewing. Also need a new force pump.

July 25th, Treasurer J. R. Macmurdo resigns and J. J. Wilkes replaced him.

Assayer William Hort said that the windows and doors could use a coat or two of paint. The constant shaking of the building causes the putty to constantly fall. Paint is peeling exposing the wood to the weather.

Melter and Refiner, M. F. Bonzano said that the separating apparatus needs to be modified in order to save the acid, New furnaces should be built. Chimneys of silver deposit and gold furnaces are in want of repairs. \$800 asked to be allocated for all these repairs.

August 8th, - Mint closed through September from this date for six weeks because of the need for repairs.

August 23rd, - Kennedy to Patterson – sends Coiner Brooks to Philadelphia to superintend the construction of a new milling machine for gold, the patterns, if you please, to be allowed at your mint, and as a measure of security, as well as economy, to bring out our dies for 1850, allowing him a few days prior to the commencement of our contemplated suspension. During Brooks' absence, foreman Brown will run the Coiner's Dept.

September 10th, - At Willard's Hotel in Washington D. C., Coiner John Brooks reported losing from his trunk \$500 in gold. He had arrived the previous day. The coins were said to have been marked with a private mark, but no clue had yet been found as to who committed the robbery. The affair had been kept quiet to give police a chance to ferret it out, but thus far they have been unsuccessful. It is assumed here that Brooks was carrying gold coin for a regular assay of same, and the coins could have mostly been of the new issue of the gold dollar.

September 17th, - Brooks (in Springfield, Massachusetts) to Patterson – Philos Tyler prepared to present a new milling machine for the mint. This is at his “American Machine Works” establishment.

December 20th, - Total deposits of California gold to this mint from January 1st to November 1849 was \$505,734.10.



1849 O Dime

Coinage of 1849

March – only half dollars struck this month.

April – Eagles, halves and half dimes struck this month.

May 30th, - a Ladies Fair which was held on this date, was to raise funds in aid of the Protestant Episcopal Bethel for Seamen. The price of the tickets was 25 cents. (Did folks purchase tickets with 1849 O quarters – a major rarity?) Or did they use 1847 O quarters that may have been more available because of the higher mintage and availability.

June 2nd, - Patterson to Kennedy – 3 pair gold dollar dies (1849) sent. Said that Philadelphia has already produced 200,000 of them. He concluded to inform Coiner Brooks, “that the gold dollar dies must be polished with great caution and tenderness.”

June 25th – from the New Orleans Times Picayune:

“Through the kindness of Mr. J. R. Macmurdo, Treasurer of the U. S. Branch Mint, we have been furnished with a supply of the *gold dollars*, in exchange for American gold. Mr. Macmurdo very courteously received us, and assured us that it was his wish to meet, as far as possible, the demand for this new coin, and put a stop to the sale of them as a premium, so much above the ordinary or current rate of premium on American gold. For several days past some thousands of dollars per day have been coined and paid out at the Mint. Mr. M. deserves much credit for his efforts to accommodate the public in this matter.”

June – gold dollars and ½ dollars struck.

Mintage of the 1849 quarter dollar was never recorded, but pieces do exist of this issue. Researchers have theorized that approximately 16,000 pieces were coined, but that may come from a subtraction of the mintage recorded for the 1850 issue of the denomination. We determined from newspaper reports that announced Director Patterson's notice to dealers of commerce of how many lower denomination coins have been produced from the inception of coinage back to 1795. His listing includes all quarter dollars coined from 1796 to the end of 1849 from both the Philadelphia Mint and the New Orleans mint, the only two mints authorized to strike silver coin at the time. The New Orleans mint started to strike quarter dollars in 1840. **Our calculations have come up with 19,998 pieces of this 1849 O quarter dollar issue.**

However, Coiner Brooks monthly reports of die arrivals was not fully annotated as far as when dies were sent or arrived. With none of these dates annotated it is difficult to determine when 1849 Quarter dollars were struck – in either 1849 or 1850. Two heads for the 1849 O listed, and may have been in the latter part of the year. (There were 15 tail dies still left over for striking, and 6 heads dated 1849)

July – only gold dollars, and ½ dollars struck.

August 17th, Patterson to Kennedy – received the 20 new gold dollars struck at your mint and they are very satisfactory.

August – gold dollars, eagles, and halves struck.

From the December 7th, 1849 issue of the *New Orleans Daily Crescent* newspaper came this of interest entitled "Counterfeit Gold":

"A few days since, two respectable young men were arrested, charged with passing counterfeit coin. The examination came on before Recorder Baldwin, and proof was adduced to show that the spurious gold had been innocently taken for horses sold up the coast by the parties accused, and that they were guiltless of any criminal intent. They were of course discharged. Recorder Baldwin sent the coin to the Mint, to have the precious metal, if any there were, taken from the base alloy. Yesterday, he received a letter from J. R.

Macmurdo, the Treasurer, enclosing the following interesting communication from Dr. Hort, the Assayer, which, through the courtesy of the Recorder, we lay before our readers. It may be of service in detecting the spurious coin at present in circulation."

The following letter in the above paper, dated December 5th, shows the methods used at the mint to determine whether or not authenticity.

"Branch Mint, New Orleans, December 5th, 1849"

*"Sir—I have carefully analyzed the Counterfeit Quarter Eagle Coin submitted to me yesterday (135 pieces). They are the most worthless counterfeits that I have ever seen, as they do not contain any gold. They are made of the kind of brass called '**Prince Rupert's Metal**', being a bright-colored alloy consisting (according to Dr. Ure) of two parts of zinc to one of copper. There is, moreover, a fraction of the peroxide of tin.*

Mr. Brooks, our Coiner, has constructed a neat and ingenious instrument for detecting the character of Gold coins, or counterfeits of same. It gives at once the weight, the circumference, and the thickness of the coin. It is graduated for Eagles, Half-Eagles and Quarter-Eagles. No weights, except one that is permanent and attached, are necessary. If the coin fits in its appropriate place, and is of the proper thickness and weight, it must be genuine—the specific gravity of gold being 19.3, while that of copper is only 8.80, and of zinc 7; that of silver is 10.47. It is, therefore, plain that if these metals were employed, increase of size must be restored to as compensation for loss of weight. Platinum, which has a specific gravity of 21.5, might be made to answer the purpose so far as weight is concerned, but it is out of the question, being nearly of equal value with gold, and a most difficult metal to work.

The coins in question were all of the same composition and weight; but these spurious coins weigh 23 1/2 grains less. They are about the same thickness as our genuine quarter-eagle, but exceed it in diameter. The stamp is remarkably well done, and might deceive any one. They have the mark of the New Orleans Mint, "O", under the eagle – date 1849."

Wm. P. Hort, Assayer

To J. R. Macmurdo, Treasurer, Branch Mint, N. O.

(Final note – New Orleans did not strike the quarter eagle in 1849.)

December – Eagles, 20,000 pieces of the ½ dollar, dimes, and ½ dimes struck.

The Year of 1850

January 1st – Kennedy to Patterson – asked for double eagle dies – a pair or two. Kennedy had the wrong (?) info that they had already been circulating on Wall Street, and anxious to see them.

January 20th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Melter and Refiner has asked for Philadelphia to send Stoneware tubes and bottle wicks of the old separating apparatus of the Philadel-

phia Mint, which have been throw-able there, and will be of great service here.

January 24th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Fire in the M/R department which was fortunately extinguished without doing any injury to the building. A wooden platform – between 2 large chimneys – took fire from the sparks thrown out of the chimney.

Melter/Refiner Bonzano's brief account of the fire – "There was a timely and energetic response to the fire from the officers and workmen. The fire might have destroyed the whole of the valuable machinery of the mint. There was a necessity for having a powerful fire apparatus and a large supply of water in the mint. It is lucky that the fire occurred during the day and not at night. The building could not have been saved, since there are a few watchmen at night and they are required to stay at their post. A fire hose and a water tank of 9,000 gallons essential." Cost maybe \$1,000.

January 26th, - Patterson to Secretary Meredith = noted that New Orleans has delayed payment to depositors. Patterson suggested an increase of the arrangement for parting the gold and silver. The amount of money deposited in the mint is not enough for the public, so he also suggested an increase of the number of workmen of 20 (set by law) which is quite inefficient.

March 2nd – Mint Treasurer, John R. Macmurdo to Kennedy – resigned as Treasurer, said that he was unable to continue – and it will be effective the 31st of March. Hopefully, there will be a replacement in time so that he would not have to close his department and be a detriment to the public.

March 5th – J. J. Wikes to Patterson – applies for Mint Treasurer position. Said he has the experience. He was a clerk under former Treasurer Cammack.

March 11th, - Kennedy to Patterson – called attention to a deficit of \$13,000 in the appropriations for the New Orleans Mint for payment of our expenses during the present fiscal year. Asked for attention paid to this since this was just received from the Treasurer of this Branch Mint.

March 11th, - Patterson to Meredith – referencing to Treasurer Macmurdo's announcement of resignation, Patterson said that a possible successor, Mr. Wikes, has applied to the President for the position, but has no endorsement for him from Kennedy. Patterson told Meredith that Kennedy, "has always been cautiously non-committal."

March 23rd, - 1st Auditor, T. L. Smith, to Patterson – the painting of the exterior and interior of the New Orleans Mint cost \$2,000 – ending the quarter of December 31st, 1849. Asked if Patterson is aware of this expenditure.

March 25th, - Patterson to Smith – he gave approval of the expenditure, but was not aware if the Secretary was apprised of the expenditure.

April 1st, - Kennedy to Patterson – Treasurer Macmurdo officially left on the 30th and his department has closed. Now without a Treasurer, the Melter/Refiner and Coining departments will use up what bullion they have, until a new Treasurer is appointed. (Public and business papers were troubled because no transactions of and silver could be made)

April 4th, - Assayer Hort to Kennedy – the deposits of California gold have come in so rapidly on every arrival of a steamship that it was impossible to assay the gold in time for the impatient depositors – they had been long from home and now anxious to return. They were hard pressed to separate the silver from the California gold and offered to at least the silver content to the depositors, but they refused and wanted only the gold value of what they brought in. To try and facilitate their demands, the Assay Department has worked until 10 or 11 o'clock at night. The department's staff wakes up at 3 am, and stopped only for meals until that time. Hort was not happy with Kennedy with delaying further, without enough action to allay this matter.

April 8th, - Hort to Kennedy – asked for an Assistant Assayer. Every officer except himself can rest if indisposed without interfering the mint's business. Hort is concerned for his health, since there is no one to take his place in case of sickness. He suggested Millspaugh be made his Assistant Assayer.

April 13th, - Cammack (now working for a local bank) to Patterson – because of the close of the mint, there is a large sum of gold due to our depositors. A considerable amount of gold dust has arrived which is distributed amongst many individuals but not able to determine its value because of no Treasurer in your mint, and the ceased operations is a serious injury to our city. He suggested to Kennedy to make stamped gold bars to depositors but hadn't heard back.

April 26th, - Patterson to Cammack (at the Bank of Louisiana) – said that he was not aware of the great amount of California gold entering New Orleans since Macmurdo left the mint. Cammack suggested to Kennedy to alleviate the somewhat the situation by going against the regulations somehow.

April – it is apparent that the amount of letters on the subject of first, no Mint Treasurer, and second, the suggestion to melt California gold into stamped bars, had created quite a problem for the mint. Exceptions to make bars, in a few instances, was done with the offer from depositors to pay the wages to employees to do the work since operations were suspended. California gold had a fair amount of silver in it that needed to be separated and this was labor intensive, creating more need for employee time.

May 17th, - Patterson to Meredith – have increased the salary appropriation and num-

bers of workers allowed at New Orleans to facilitate the manufacture of processing of the large amount of California gold arriving which requires more work.

May 19th, - Coiner Brooks to Kennedy – reported that the city's Waterworks have been for sometime insufficient in supplying water for the boilers, separating department, bleaching, hardening, and if it were not for a valve in the wooden reservoir (which is in the 1st story) the water pipes in the street would take almost to the steam engine full water from the reservoir, but the cisterns shrink and swell, are tight one day, leak the next, and injure the bldg and machinery. Since the city water is inadequate, and the wooden reservoir problematic, request the reservoir be replaced with an iron one.

May 24th, - Kennedy to Patterson – looks as if J. J. Wikes bonds for his employment at New Orleans for Treasurer have been accepted and will be on his way to take the position.

May 25th, - Patterson to Kennedy – accepts the forming of bars that are stamped with weight and fineness at your mint since large transactions are better handled. Once you have a Treasurer, this situation will straighten and normalcy to your operations should return.

May 29th, - Mr. Wikes arrived on the 25th and began his duties on the 28th.

June 4th, - Patterson to Kennedy – in reference to the problem of water for the mint – approve of your suggestion for an iron reservoir, and suggest that another steam engine be supplied for coinage.

June 5th, - Meredith to Patterson – an additional appropriation of \$5,000 is awarded to New Orleans for articles that have been purchased.

June 7th, - Kennedy to Patterson – no coinage delivery during the span of having no Treasurer. Nevertheless, \$40,000 in eagles, dimes and half dimes were struck. About 67,000 ounces of gold ingots and about 350,000 ounces of silver ingots were produced during that time as well. Lastly, repairs and other improvements were accomplished during the interim.

June 28th, - Meredith to Patterson – referring to a letter from Kennedy asking for an increase of the clerical force in the Office of the Treasurer at New Orleans. Asked for Patterson's views. On July 1st, Patterson approved the clerical addition to the Treasurer's dept since business has increased with California gold – and approved an 1800/year salary.

June – Watchman Robert White lost his left hand at the mint after 37 splinters were embedded into his arm and hand and lost his position of 11 years. The accident occurred when he shot the hand from a musket that he was required to carry every Saturday. He was

reinstated by Kennedy 3 months after this incident after he had healed.

However, newly appointed Superintendent, Robert M. McAlpin on November 24th, dismissed White on the 14th of January 1851. Many people petitioned for his pay while out and asked for his reinstatement. Later, Assayer Hort disagreed with reinstatement because he (White) was seen late at night conversing with dangerous characters in the street – and was repeatedly reprimanded for it. Coiner Brooks said he was sleeping on night duty, and said that he was already well off in real state holdings. Melter and Refiner Bonzano thought White to be morally incompetent for his performance of duties. He had no confidence in him. The Treasurer of the mint recommended pay for time off, but not a reinstatement.

August 8th, - Kennedy to Patterson – coin in July would have been more, but the parting acid had given out at the early part of the month.

August 29th, - Kennedy to Patterson – M/R Bonzano asked for a 6 week leave for private business up North. Requests that Edward Blank as acting M/R. Kennedy approved – felt this ‘acting’ was competent.

September 9th, - Patterson to Kennedy – Bonzano visited him while he was here in the North.

September 13th, - Bonzano to Patterson – requested a new coining press for Dollars, a good lathe for Coining Department, and a new Assay balance.

September 18th, - Kennedy to Patterson – offered to come to Philadelphia to pick up the dies for 1851, if he is still in office, or if I could send someone else to do so. Kennedy said his health is better after the heat of the summer.

October 31st, - Treasurer Wikes to Patterson – a complete list from 1838 until October 31, 1850 of all the gold deposit amounts from all gold bearing states. (Entry 11, 1848, page 742)

November 29th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Introduced Treasurer Wikes as a perfect gentleman, useful, and an efficient officer to go to Philadelphia to pick up our dies for 1851. His temporary replacement, Martin S. Kennedy, at mint for 6 years, is dependable.

December 1st – Bonzano to Patterson – sent a drawing of the basement floor, by John F. Brown, that gives evidence to why our new broilers should be put there under the “rolling room”. Said that he and Coiner Brooks have discussed the matter and agree that the Old Broiler, put in only 2 years ago, continually needs patching. Said that the shortness of the old boilers, with intense fire has to be done to generate a sufficient steam – but the large amount of sediment in the river water forms a large crust and the heat concentrates at the bottom where the heat is not transferred to the water sufficiently. Luckily, thus far, it has been drained in time, with no explosion. Suggested the new boilers be 30 inches diameter and 40 feet in length – which would furnish much steam and a moderate fire. A flue

would take care of any deposit at the bottom as well. This invention was made by Philos Tyler in Springfield, Mass. He has proven its efficiency there and plans a patent for it. Suggests the new boilers be adopted from Tyler. Last, he has received a telegraphic message, that Mr. McAlpin is the new Superintendent, the new Treasurer Debuys, and a new Coiner Duvall. (Duvall also an inventor of a cotton press very similar to Tyler's invention of same)

December 9th, - Robert M. McAlpin sends in his paperwork to take over as Superintendent.

December 20th, - Patterson to McAlpin – dies for 1851 are now in the hands of Wikes, and will be sent to you in his hands.

December 23rd, - Philos Tyler to Patterson – concerning Duvall's appointment as Coiner at New Orleans. Tyler wished that he had been able to give his opinion to the mint administration concerning Duvall, but no one was listening. Didn't, especially since his competing cotton press, with his like invention, was not as well working as his. Also, Duvall had received his mechanical knowledge from Joseph Harmstead, machinist at the New Orleans Mint, who, as an aside, would like to be foreman of the Coining Department.

December 27th, Augustus Duvall became Coiner in place of John Brooks.

December 31st, - Former Coiner Brooks to Patterson – in a sort of goodbye letter – said that dies arrived that morning and striking could start the next day. Was still saying that the new boilers should be put into the yard and not into the basement. But realized that there is not enough room in the yard so he dropped the idea. Said that he is glad that Duvall is taking over as Coiner and now he can live a life of leisure.

Sometime this year, U. S. President Polk visited the mint and was presented with a copper medal.

Coinage 1850

January – only Eagles and half dollars coined.

February – Eagles, half dollars, dimes and half dimes coined.

March – Eagles and half dollars only struck.

April 1st, - Kennedy to Patterson – 1849 dies canceled:

Eagles 6 heads; 6 heads half eagles; 12 heads quarter eagles; 3 heads and 2 tails gold dollar; 1 head silver dollar; 12 heads and 10 tails half dollar; 6 heads quarter dollar; 12

heads dimes and 1 tail; 12 heads half dime and 1 tail. Also, New Orleans reserved tails dies: 8 eagle; 20 half eagle; 18 quarter eagle; 1 gold dollar tail; 4 silver dollar tails, 5 half dollar tails; 15 quarter dollar tails; 14 dime tails; 11 half dime tails. So, 70 heads total and 14 tails total canceled, and 103 tails reserved for future use.

(One wonders here why so many dies were canceled – looks as if New Orleans asked for too many for the 1849 year – or they found some leftover dies from previous years???)

April 5th, - Patterson to Kennedy – sent one pair of the new Double Eagle dies of 1850 and will send another pair later. He emphasized that the dies have the proper depth and will send a guide in preparing others.

April 22nd – Kennedy to Patterson – compilation of dies received thus far – 2 pairs double eagles; 2 heads silver dollar; 16 heads and 16 tails half dollar; 6 heads quarter dollar; 6 heads dime; 6 heads half dime; 8 heads and 2 tails eagles; 4 heads half eagles; 4 heads quarter eagles; 6 pair of gold dollars.

April 30th, a brand new double eagle of this year was presented by the mint officers to be placed into the cornerstone of the New Odd Fellows Hall opposite Lafayette Square. In 1866 this same Hall burned down, but the coins inside survived intact, and were transferred to the new Odd Fellows Hall and placed there. In December of 1914, the new site was demolished because of health concerns, but it is unknown if the cornerstone contents, or cornerstone itself, was removed and replaced once again. The 1850 O Double Eagle is a key date, and today (June 2023 Coin World Trends) stands at \$65,000 in MS60, but the one in the cornerstone is probably pristine, and not listed in any condition price above MS60.

June – 40,000 double eagles, 386,000 Half dollars and 70,000 dimes struck.

July – 15,000 double eagles, 8,000 quarter eagles, 35,000 silver dollars, 160,000 quarter dollars, 110,000 dimes, 40,000 half dimes, and 16,000 half dollars. (A busy month)

August – Double eagles, quarter eagles, half dollars, quarters, dollars, and dime coined.

September 29th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Dies required for 1851: 6 pair double eagles; 4 heads & 2 tails eagles; 2 head ½ eagles; 4 heads ¼ eagles; 4 heads gold dollar; 4 heads silver dollar; 16 pairs of half dollar; 4 heads ¼ dollar; 6 heads for dimes & half dimes.

November – only double eagles and half dollars coined.

December 8th, - Kennedy to Patterson – Coiner Brooks requests additional dies – 2 pair of dime, 2 pair of half dime, and 2 pair of the gold dollar.

December – all gold denominations, except the half eagle were struck and all silver struck except the silver dollar.

The Year of 1851

January 3rd, - Kennedy to Patterson – sent his final goodbyes as he is replaced as Supt. Robert M. McAlpin replaced him. McAlpin is a former Director with Southern Mutual Life Insurance Company. Later in August of 1851, McAlpin had an ad for sale of Tennent's Ale in pints in the New Orleans Crescent newspaper. He also advertised a "Sundries" business – mostly food stuffs, but also sold wines, brandies, and liquors.

January 7th, - McAlpin acknowledges receipt of 60 dies for 1851 and 30 tail dies were canceled in his presence.

(Entry 11, 1851, page 10 has a complete listing of dies received and dies canceled for 1850 & 1851) copy made.

January 13th, - Coining recommenced under new Coiner Duvall and Supt. McAlpin.

January 19th, - McAlpin to new Mint Director George N. Eckert that over 2 hundred Californians have come to the mint to make deposits; but they are mostly small ones.

February 7th, - Duvall to McAlpin – has needs for his department: 1. 3 cylinder boilers, 2. a lathe about 8 or long, 3. a small steam engine to run the coining presses. He wrote that the boilers have become very thin and not very safe. Also the fact that the water for the boilers comes from the Mississippi River and leaves a sandy deposit at the bottom of the boilers. Estimate cost to correct all was \$3,400.

February 13th, - McAlpin to Patterson – told to use most of his workforce on Double Eagles having \$2,500,000 in gold bullion. But there is no silver at present. In the M/R increased the workers to 18 from 14. He said he discussed this (the increase in workers) and they agreed, and now await Patterson's approval.

February 24th. - Patterson to McAlpin – agreed to his necessity to increase the amount of workmen in the M/R.

March 18th, - Patterson to McAlpin – notified McAlpin of the proposal of a 3-cent piece, which would be a profit advantage to the government.

March 25th, - \$100 in copper cents sent to the mint from Philadelphia because McAlpin wrote they were entirely out.

April 4th, - McAlpin to Patterson – reported that the mint officers were about to coin 2 million dollars but had a shortness of acids to make that goal.

April 13th – a letter from a Mr. Edward Raube (Rawle?), a Solicitor for the Office Merchants and Planters Insurance Company, questioned the info that he heard that there would be a change in Superintendents at the mint and like to apply for it. (nothing further on this in the records)

April 22nd, - Patterson to McAlpin – instructions as for how to prepare ingots and other processes for preparing to strike the 3 cent silver piece. Patterson wrote that the dies would be ready in a day or two and sent some specimen coins.

April 26th, - Patterson to McAlpin – sent one pair of 3 cent dies and 2 more pairs soon to be sent. Also ingot moulds to be sent for the new coin in about 4 to 5 days. He added a caution that there is a necessity of using only the purest silver and copper for the mixture. In Philadelphia they had to destroy a significant amount of planchets, because they were too hard to work because of bad silver.

May 8th, Dies arrived for 3 cent piece and the specimens.

May 11th, - received the 2nd pair of dies for the 3 cent.

May 15th, - McAlpin to Patterson – now ready to strike 3 cent pieces. Duvall claimed he could strike 25,000 worth per month, but will have to discontinue making dimes, half dimes, quarter eagles and gold dollars as we have but one press for small coins. Hope to get another small press. McAlpin added that he has some doubt that the 3 cent piece will circulate here as the 5 & 10 cent pieces do.

May 27th, - Superintendent announced that mint has about \$100,000 in silver bullion to strike new silver 3 cent coin – and asked to strike them at the rate of \$25,000 per month. Ingots have already been prepared.

June 12th, Patterson to McAlpin – announced to McAlpin he sent in his resignation – effective at the end of the month. Patterson also reminded McAlpin that the 3 cent piece production should only be one half of your output.

July 3rd, - New Mint Director, George N. Eckert, allowed the leave of absence for Supt McAlpin for the months of August and September.

July 8th, - McAlpin to Patterson (should have said Eckert) – 3 cent piece circulation if not what he anticipated since there is still a shortage of small change in the county and not city. The postmaster, Mr. Mason, said that he remitted to county offices \$500 in 3 cent

piece, and said that they can handle the needs of the county and commercial community.

July – August – Coiner Duvall asked for a leave of absence to see construction of an engine for mint at Springfield, Massachusetts and pick up dies from Philadelphia. He went



1851 O Quarter Eagle - Courtesy of Heritage Auctions

and spent his own money for the trip, but was denied reimbursement because he didn't apply from the proper department. Other officers from the mint had received reimbursement in the past, but because of wrong department, Duvall was refused. (He was later approved)

July 24th, - Acting Coiner, John F. Brown, since Coiner Duvall went to Philadelphia and Massachusetts, wrote McAlpin that they were sorely in need of a new balance in the Treasurer's office, or weigh room, because present one is greatly inaccurate in weighing bullion. M/R Bonzano, and Treasurer Debuys concurred with their own additions to this

same letter.

August 5th, - Acting Supt Hort to Director Eckert – 33 pair of dies received for 1851 – 3 pair of double eagles; 3 pair eagles; 2 pair half eagles; 4 pair quarter eagles; 4 pair of half dollars; 3 pair of quarter dollars; 6 pair of dimes; 4 pair of half dimes; and 4 pair of 3 cent.

August 12th, - Secretary of Treasury questioned Acting Superintendent William Hort if new pavement on Esplanade Street was beneficial to the mint – and under what authority to do so. Cost of new pavement was \$1,260.

August 20th, Eckert to Hort – discrepancy on the amount of dies received by you. Should be 35 dies – 2 more pair of dies for the ½ dime.

August 29th, - Hort responds to above 20th letter and said that only 33 were sent. Hort was there himself when the secure package was opened and only 4 pair of ½ dime dies were inside. They have not been removed from the vault and recounted them on the 28th.

August 28th, - Coiner Duvall, who brought the 33 dies from Philadelphia in a trunk, wrote Acting Supt Hort that in his travel back to New Orleans that the trunk never left his sight, except when put in baggage in the hotel and on the train. He added that it is doubtful that a thief would take lower denomination dies versus the large silver or gold. He also wrote that the trunk upon arrival in New Orleans was opened in front of his assistant John Brown and no sign of tampering was seen. He finished by asking Philadelphia to please check their records.

September 11th, - Eckert to McAlpin – Philadelphia has checked all records, engravers, etc. and found that 35 dies were indeed taken to New Orleans by Coiner Duvall. Eckert suggested to examine your dies in storage in New Orleans and they should be discovered.

September 12, - Acting Supt William Hort asked to employ 2 more watchmen front and back entrance – because of the bad neighborhood. On the north side was a gambling place – said to be headquarters of pick pockets, highway robbers and assassins. On south-west side, by the back, is Galladine Street where resides about a hundred of the most des

perate characters, where murder is often committed, and they prowl about the streets. They are well armed and the police are afraid to deal with them. Also during the rush of returning Californians there is a lot of money in the vaults to protect.

September 20th, - Hort to Eckert – They have checked again and again for the missing ½ dime dies to no avail. The vault has been checked thoroughly as well the valise in which they came. The valise was full with no more available space. Duvall neglected to

count them when received in Philadelphia and assumed then it was 33 pair. Hort said that both men (Duvall & Brown) are very reliable men.

November 7th, - McAlpin to Eckert – again went through a complete inventory for our dies and still no missing ½ dime dies. Coiner Duvall still confident that he received 33 pair and not 35. The new boilers have arrived in the yard and are in great shape. The engine has been taken down and rebuilt, the old pump within continually out of order and causing delays – cost \$300. But the engine has been in service for 15 years and was not a fine piece of workmanship originally. New engine estimate cost of \$12,000. The new engine for the coining department is up and will be ready in a few days. Have on hand \$18,000 in 3 cent pieces, but have had a request for only \$800 worth. We will strike no more until we hear from you.

November 8th, - Duvall to McAlpin and as well to Eckert – need another coining press with strength for the striking of silver dollars, or needs more adjusters of coin. But would rather have another press for larger coin.

November 22nd, - McAlpin to Eckert – a Col Drumum, the Indian Agent, said that he must have \$100,000 in silver coins as many of his payments are in fractions of a dollar.

November 29th, - a keg of \$100 worth of cents sent to New Orleans.

Coinage of 1851

Because of high demand for coinage, the mint was pushed to make higher denomination gold coins. Secretary Corwin said the officers should be pushed with vigor to do so. Silver coin also pushed. 7 heads and 5 tails of the 1850 quarter dollar dies canceled - no date listed.

720,000 pieces of the 3 cent silver were struck this year, and the only year that they were struck at this mint. And a report in the Planter's Banner of Franklin, Attacapas, LA on June 5th, 1852 that,

"The Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New Orleans advertises that he is prepared to forward, at the expense of the mint, packages of Three-cent pieces, in exchange for gold. The packages being put up in sums of \$30, \$60 and \$150, persons making application should send their gold so as to meet these amounts, as packages can in no wise be broken. As our merchants have long been suffering for want of small change, we hope they will avail themselves of the chance now afforded."

In May, coinage was the following: 49,750 Double Eagles, 3,560 Eagles, 28,000 1/4 Eagles, 42,000 Half Dollars, 80,000 Dimes, 160,000 Half Dimes.

In August, coinage was the following: 2,750 Double Eagles, 45,500 Eagles, 4,000 Quarter Eagles, 10,000 gold dollars, only silver coin was half dollars, 12,000 pieces. California gold deposits came at the rate of \$320,031.62 in the month of August.

There was no coinage done at this mint for the month of September.

December 6th, - Patterson to McAlpin – sending ½ eagle dies for 1851 – remaining request for all 9 pair will be forwarded from day to day. (no half eagles were coined at New Orleans since 1847). 41,000 half eagles coined in 1851, and again in 1854 – 46,000 coined. December 16th, - Dies for 1852 sent – 11 pair halves; 2 pair ¼ dollars; 2 pair dimes; 3 pair double eagles; 2 pair eagles; 1 pair ½ eagles; 1 pair ¼ eagles; 1 pair gold dollars. The next day was shipped – 2 pair ½ dime; 1 pair eagles; 1 pair gold dollar. Eckert also made sure to add the box numbers of each denomination shipment. This because of the recent loss of ½ dime dies.

December 18th, - dies sent before the December 16th letter arrived this date – 2 eagle heads; 2 ½ eagle heads, 2 ¼ eagle heads; 2 ½ dollar heads; 2 ¼ dollar heads; 2 dime heads.

December 30th, - shipment of dies sent on December 16th had arrived.



Three Cent
Silver – 1851
New Orleans
Obverse &
Reverse
Authors'
Collection

The Year of 1852

February 3rd, - McAlpin to Eckert – they have been engaged in “repairing the building. The Galleries leading to the M/R were so much decayed, it is a wonder they had not fallen”. He did not have a cost for repairs as of yet. Lastly, “our gold is all refined, and

awaiting the arrival of the “Philadelphia” – expect at least \$1,000,000 by her”. (Assume The Philadelphia was a steamship, but there was no further explanation of what this was about in the records)

February 9th, - William Hort, Assayer, passed away.

February 14th, - McAlpin to Eckert – received deposits, but because of the death of Hort, business generally is suspended. Many portions of the mint in a dilapidated condition, has workers repairing plastering. Wick, the chief clerk, resigned and Treasurer Debuys has appointed Charles Pitts – a respectable worker.

February 16th, - McAlpin to Eckert – Temporarily appointed Millspaugh as Assayer to replace Hort.

March 2nd, - McAlpin to Eckert – this morning an accident occurred in the M/R room. The lower portion of the 1st and 2nd stories bulged out, and at one time we thought the entire of both of the chimneys for our furnaces would fall. Some of the arches push on them and should they fall the damage may be great. Bonzano suggests to take them down and rebuild – cost \$4,000. Braces have been put up. The officers have stated that it is too dangerous to remain as it is. The lives of the workmen are in danger.

March 5th, - McAlpin to Eckert – architects and building Masons have examined the damage and conclude that the chimneys are dangerous and unfit for use. One will be taken down and repaired immediately. Operations will not be stopped as they will work with the remaining stack.

March 8th, - McAlpin to Eckert – in taking down the stack, they found the arches in the 2nd story were giving way and Bonzano declines taking the responsibility of rebuilding the chimneys. McAlpin has contracted out the work.

March 17th, - Secretary of the Treasury Thomas Corwin to Eckert – deposits of gold from 1838 – 1851 at New Orleans – from California 14,016,294, other gold – 143,930 – total 14,160,224. (Bullion ounces)

March 29th, - McAlpin to Eckert – confined to his room for several days (illness?) he can now report the 2 week last condition of the mint. The M/R stack is finished – to give bill later. They still have 14,600 dollars in 3 cent pieces.

April 26th, - McAlpin to Eckert – asked for \$200 more in copper cents and also a reminder of the need for scales.

May 17th, - Eckert to McAlpin – in response to your letter of your removing stock of

3 cent pieces, we encourage a more direct distribution to individuals as we have done successfully in Philadelphia. This method, plus others, may encourage demand in New Orleans as we have here. The profit to the govt for its production is repeated here, and encourage more production of them.

June 21st, - Eckert to McAlpin – the scales for your mint have been finished by a Mr. Meyer – they weigh 1,000 ounces, and have worked perfectly in the Coiner's office. Said that Meyer will now work on a larger scale for the Treasurer's office. He added, "The scale already sent is ornamented in bad taste, I advise you to have it repainted."

July 9th, - McAlpin to Eckert – a machinist (not Joseph Harmstead for he had left for California sometime from June 20th – 25th) in the Coining Dept, not being very busy, Mr. Duvall had him make a very inferior scale for his use – Duvall's. Suggested that the new scale coming should be given to Duvall. Also reported the loss of their blacksmith, a good workman, who died in the explosion of Steamer St. James.

July 30th, - Coiner Duvall asked for a replacement of a coin press and new main engine – the engine especially since it was worn out and needed constant repairs.

July 31st, - Bonzano to Eckert – McAlpin has an illness in his family and will be absent from the city for a few days. I am filling his position as Acting Supt in the meantime.

August 16th, - Eckert to McAlpin – An assay balance has been sent and should prove satisfactorily. Go ahead and send the old back to us for repair.

August 20th, - Howard Millspaugh is now officially the Mint's Assayer.

September 25th, - McAlpin to Eckert – said that he hopes Congress will pass the extra \$25,000 needed by this mint for contingency expenses. He said that he economizing in every dept as much as he can.

October 9th, - McAlpin to Eckert – business still dull. Nearly all the gold dust belonging to California passengers arriving in the city is shipped to New York prior to their leaving California.

October 16th, - McAlpin to Eckert – another reason for less gold coming to the New Orleans mint is the fact that shipping gold dust is cheap (normally \$5). And the passage from Chagres, Panama to New Orleans costs less – once 50 dollars, now 35 dollars.

October 19th, - Eckert to McAlpin – still stressing the circulation in the New Orleans area for the 3 cent since it is quite popular in the North. He said profits from its coinage should help to defray your expenses, since Congress may not pass your \$25,000 request.

Also told to contact an agent of Adams & Co. to assist it its more thorough distribution in the South.

October 30th, - Assayer Millspaugh reported the receipt of the assay balance and weights from Philadelphia. However, the glass contained within was found to be broken. He carefully replaced the glass and re-balanced the balance and it works well.

December 21st, - McAlpin to Eckert – Adams & Co. do not express any desire to speculate in the 3 cent. They said there is no demand for it in the South – only at the Post Office.

Coinage of 1852

January – only double eagles and halves struck.

April – only double eagles and gold dollars struck.

June 3rd, - McAlpin to Eckert – very little gold arriving at this time (California gold it is assumed), though the May coinage statement has 23,000 double eagles struck with 50,000 halves.

All quarter dollars (96,000 pieces) were coined in the month of July.

November 10th, - McAlpin to Eckert – said that Treasurer Debuys is much opposed to his direction of the coinage of small coins. Debuys said it was too much trouble and risk to pay them out. He asked for Eckert's support to coin more gold dollars; ¼ eagles; ½ eagles; and 3 and 10 cent pieces. We have ample time and the force.

November – just double eagles and ¼ eagles struck.

December 4th, - Eckert to McAlpin – if you are unable to find an adequate market for the 3 cent, we can take your coined & uncoined silver here. Also, he agreed that smaller coins should still be minted, unless depositors want larger coin.

December 4th, - dies sent from Philadelphia.

December 20th, - McAlpin to Eckert – received all dies requested for the year of 1853– including 2 heads for the half dollar – which made available the striking of the old standard half (No arrows nor rays) in January of the next year, which is an ex-

treme rarity (only 4 pieces known).

*A Memorandum of the Coining Dies received from
P. M. McAlpin Esq. Sup. for the Year 1852.*

<i>Dates of the Receipt of Dies</i>	<i>Denomination of Dies</i>															
	Double Eagle		Eagle		Half Eagle		Quarter Eagle		Gold Dollar		Silver Dollar		Half Dollar		Quarter Dollar	
	H.	T.	H.	T.	H.	T.	H.	T.	H.	T.	H.	T.	H.	T.	H.	T.
<i>Oct. 15th</i>	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
<i>" 18th</i>	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
<i>" 20th</i>	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
<i>" 22nd</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
<i>" 26</i>	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	4
<i>" 29</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
<i>" 31st</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
<i>1852 July - 2nd</i>	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	6	4	6	-	2	-	6	-	6	6	2	-	12	-	4	6

Recapitulation

	Heads	Tails
Double Eagle	6	4
Eagle	6	-
Half Eagle	2	-
Quarter Eagle	6	-
Gold Dollar	6	6
Silver Dollar	2	-
Half Dollar	12	-
Quarter Dollar	4	-
Dime	6	-
Half Dime	6	-
Three Cent	6	6
<i>Total</i>	62	16

*United States Branch Mint New Orleans
Coiners Office Aug. 12th 1852.*

*A. Merrill
Coiner*

Coining dies received from Philadelphia for the 1852 year to Superintendent McAlpin

The Year of 1853

January 11th, McAlpin to Eckert – received ½ dollar (4 pair); 4 pair ½ dimes; as well as 2 double eagle pair; 4 gold dollar pair; 2 pair dimes; 2 pair ¼ eagles; 6 pair of 3 cent; all dated for the year of 1853. (This letter (Entry 11, 1851, pg 473 also adds the dies defaced from 1852) The silver coin dies received at this time would not have arrows on either side of the date.

March 9th, - McAlpin to Eckert – Bonzano applies for leave of absence to visit family in Europe on business. A Mr. Blank (Black?) his capable assistant, will take over in the interim. He won't be leaving till on the "Crescent City" on July 11th.

March 24th, - Eckert to McAlpin – discontinue the receipt of silver bullion for coinage with other than dollar pieces. Full instructions relative to the new coinage (arrows at date) will be forwarded he hopes in a few days. The dies for same are in the process of manufacture. Also he brought up the fact that Philadelphia was in agreement for the issue of bars, properly stamped, for those depositors wishing their precious metals in that form. Moulds for some will be sent to you.

April – Thomas M. Pettit now Mint Director.

April 29th, - Pettit to McAlpin – 3 boxes of quarter dollar dies were sent with new arrow design on the obverse.

April 30th – Pettit to McAlpin – sends three more boxes of quarter dollar dies of new design.

May 3rd, - McAlpin to Pettit – anxiously awaiting receipt of new dies – we have nothing to do.

May 4th, - Anthony J. Guirot appointed Coiner at New Orleans.

May 7th, - McAlpin to Pettit – reported the arrival of 6 boxes of dies (#s 29-34) containing 6 pair of quarter dollar new issue.

May 13th, - McAlpin to Eckert – my successor, Charles Bienvenu will take over tomorrow.

May 14th, - Charles Bienvenu entered office as Superintendent on this date and was there until December 31, 1857 – this information on when he started is not in *Coin World's Coin Almanac*.

May 25th, - Bienvenu to Pettit – unaware of instructions of what to do with tail dies, he had the coiner use the old tail dies with the start of production of ½ dimes, and dimes. He awaited approval to continue their use for it had been instructed in a past letter to go ahead and use the unchanged reverses.

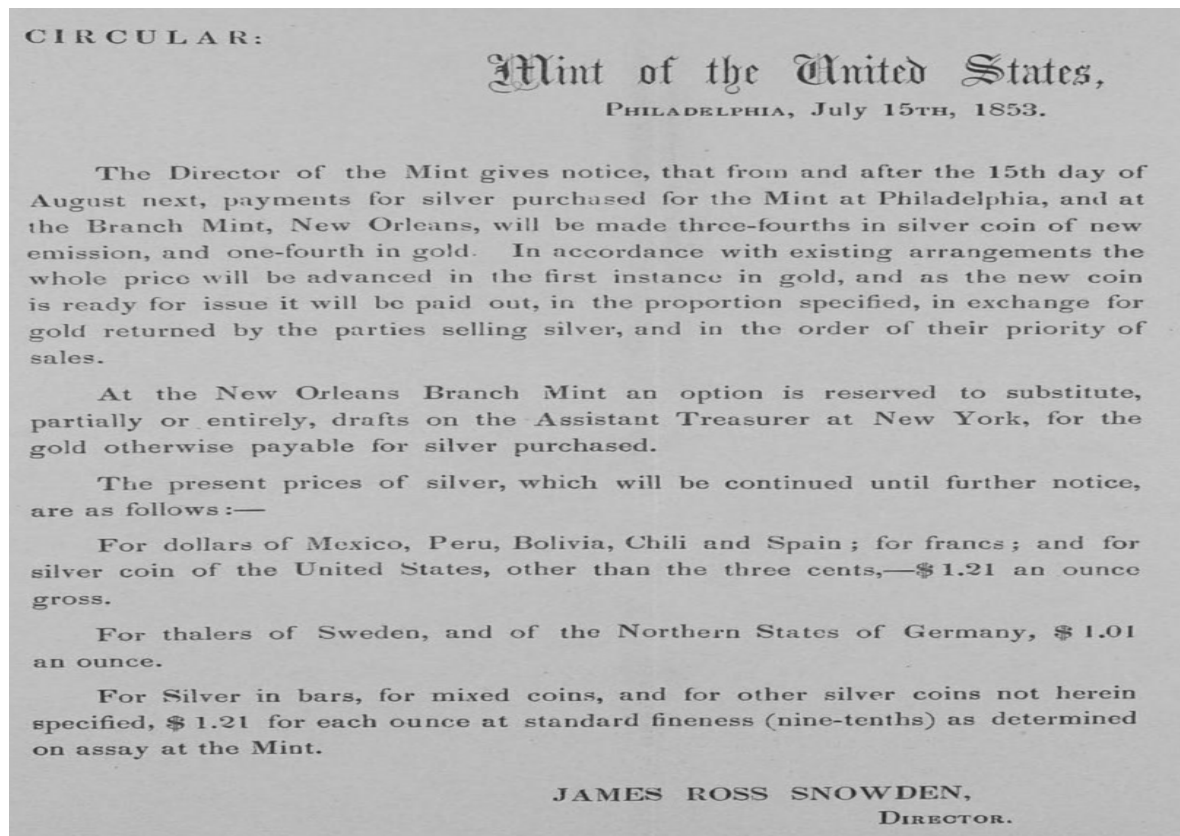
May 31st, - Bienvenu to Pettit – the following dies of 1853 (those heads received before the design change) – 6 half dollar heads; **24 half dollar tail dies**; 4 heads of the quarter; and 12 tail of the quarter dollar, 6 dime heads, and 6 ½ dime heads. All canceled.

June 9th, - James Ross Snowden (now Director of the Mint) to Bienvenu – sent die boxes (#38, 39 & 43). First two contain head and tails for the half and the latter is head ½ dime dies. Also, he was in receipt of a letter from New Orleans concerning the destruction of dies of the old standard.

June 18th, - Bonzano (acting Superintendent) to Snowden – that Supt Bienvenu had to leave for a few days on urgent business. Dies were received – heads for the half & ½ dime.

June 18th, - Patterson (acting Director) to Secretary of the Treasury, James Guthrie – said that Bienvenu was absent because he was with his family in Pittsburgh with the intention of moving them to Philadelphia.

July 13th, - Mint Treasurer, James Brewer, listed several employee changes – his chief clerk, James D. Gillmore resigned because of salary (Martin G. Kennedy replaced him). The weighing clerk also resigned and Brewer was feeling bad about both leaving, because their replacements were not fully skilled. He asked Secretary Guthrie to discuss with Congress salary increases for these positions.



1853 Snowden coin directive

August 5th, - Supt Bienvenu asked for a pay increase for George Clammann from 70 to 100 dollars per month. George was with mint since the beginning as Porter and thought

to be an essential employee. He had been offered that amount from several banks (one the Citizen's Bank) in New Orleans. Because of the amount of silver bullion coming into the mint the Supt felt someone with experience should be retained.

August 9th, - Bonzano (still acting Supt) to Snowden – wrote that he sent a telegram yesterday noting the immediate need for half dollar dies, for the last set is now in the press. We are also doing our best on the smaller coin.

August 11th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – sent a pair of half dollar dies yesterday and will forward 4 more pair of same today.

August 20th, - Guthrie to Snowden – complaints here have been received from the West (St. Louis in particular) that there is a scarcity of coin in the area. Suggests sending \$10,000 worth if available.

August 25th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – the stamp for the bars have not yet come to hand. Added that the Treasurer informed him that sellers of silver to the mint generally ask to be paid in gold, and give a reason that the banks refuse to receive the new silver coins on deposit. The Banks allege that the new silver coin is not accepted by the Custom House unless it is less than 5 dollars. He said he would need to coin more gold for the depositors here, but they have a very small amount of gold in process of coinage. He added that half dollars have been readily accepted by the public, as he will have to keep an adequate supply of all denominations to accommodate the public.

September 6th, - Guthrie to Snowden – accepting appointments of clerks, James D. Gillmore, Oscar Isnard and Martin Kennedy to the Treasurer's office.

October 5th, - Millspaugh (acting supt) to Snowden – sent the monthly mint status report for September.

November 4th, - Bonzano is Acting Supt once again (reason not noted).

November 15th, - Snowden to Guthrie – New Orleans coinage has been low as of late, mainly because of the epidemic that yearly hits the region. He is now encouraging the Superintendent to increase production. He noted that 8,000 eagles were struck in New Orleans in October. Silver production was noted in a previous letter. (\$44 in silver assay coins was sent to give an idea of how much production was accomplished in this metal)

November 15th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – the appropriation for the mint is mostly based on coinage and that estimate is based on a 5 millions of dollars coinage/year. Bienvenu felt that fitting in the problems of the epidemic that seems about right. However, it could be more. He also noted that for 4 months in 1850 the workers were not paid at all be-

cause of the non-appropriation settlement then.

November 15th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – sent him the half dollar die and its pieces. Also, concerned of the low production, so send him how many presses that you have in operation. And he will give suggestions. In conference with Guthrie, they suggest to add more workmen.

December 19th, Bienvenu said that there is not enough gold coin to pay depositors in gold. The gold has been used up in paying for silver bullion. Also asked Director Snowden for \$250,000 in gold coin with approval from the Secretary of the Treasury.

December – by the end of the year of 1853, New Orleans had received \$2,006,673 from California gold – much less than in the previous four years.

Entry 11, 1853, pages 294-296 gives a complete breakdown of all coinage denominations struck at New Orleans from 1838 until 1853.

Coinage of 1853

1853 O No Arrows Half Dollar, only 4 known. Struck in the early part of the year, when in February the law changed the weight of the issue and added arrows at the date to designate the change. The 3rd known piece was discovered by a Chicago Street Car Conductor in 1911 and made its way to several collectors after that – a very valuable coin. This information found by the authors during research on this piece.



January – only double eagles and gold dollars struck. (This report misfiled into Entry 11, 1851, page 508)

February – only double eagles coined (This report misfiled in Entry 11, 1851, page

511.

March – double eagles, gold dollars, and dimes were struck.

April – all double eagles coined, no silver.

April 28th – the mint was supplied with \$500,000 in Mexican silver for new coinage.

July 21st, - Charles Bienvenu, Superintendent, wrote that in June of this year the following half dollar dies were received from Philadelphia. (5 heads and 5 tails)

He then added that he regretted to say that 3 heads are now unfit for use. Our supply of half dollar dies for the year ending on the 30th of December 1853, is therefore reduced to 2 heads and 5 tails. He added, “Should any accident happen to these dies, in the working of the press, the offering of Half Dollar coins would unavoidably be interrupted.” He asked for an additional 6 heads and 6 tails (6 pair) of the 1853 half dollar dies be sent.

October 18th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – need immediately 12 heads and 6 tails dies for the half and 4 heads and 4 tails for the quarter.

October 19th, Snowden to Bienvenu – received your telegram yesterday asking for dies immediately. The number asked for is larger than usual, but they will be sent you in a few days.

October 28th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – acknowledged the request for so may dies earlier has a satisfactory reason. I just received from the present Coiner the reverse dies that were used in 1852, were canceled by the order of the late Superintendent McAlpin, with the exception of the following dies that are in good order: Dimes 10, ½ dimes 5, 3 cent 10.

October 29th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – in reference to a telegram yesterday sent to you about the immediate need for dies, I have a respectable comment to make. “I believe it to be my duty to inform you, the coining dies lately received at this Branch Mint have been found to be very inferior to those of former years, and that in several cases, it has been impossible to use some of them, as they didn’t admit of hardening or grinding. I will here remark that through this case a good deal of time and labor have been lost by the coining department. The only ones left fit for use are: 2 heads and 6 tails for the half, 0 heads and 1 tail for the quarter, 3 heads for the dime and 10 tails, 8 ½ dime heads and 5 tails.”

Bienvenu finished this letter with a huge request for 1854 dies: 40 heads and 40 tails for the half; 12 heads and 12 tails for the quarter; 10 heads and 10 tails for the dime; 8 heads and 4 tails for the ½ dime. For gold: 8 heads and 0 tails for the double eagle; 8 heads and 0 tails for the eagle; 6 heads and 0 tails for the ½ eagle; 6 heads and 0 tails for ¼ eagle; and 8 heads and 5 tails for the gold dollar.

October 29th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – have received your letter on the die issue and add that our engraver, J. B. Longacre, was informed. They are sending 2 pairs of half dollar and quarter dollar dies.

November 7th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – sorry to hear that part of your dies used in 1852 were canceled, but the remaining reverse dies can still be used. From now on, this office needs to be notified of dies meant for canceling.

November 8th, - Bonzano to Snowden – have received the 4 pairs of dies for the half and quarter. However, Bonzano was to add this long discussion in this letter: Bonzano said that he had been in contact with Engraver Longacre in which did not convince him of the quality of the steel in the dies. Longacre complained that the dies were as good, as in the older dies, or in those sent last. Still, a half dollar die, which he thinks cannot be ground on any disk without entirely obliterating parts of it. “I have directed him to keep the die as it is, until it might be known whether you desire it to be sent or not, and I enclose an impression made from it. As it naturally is very important for the engraver to know whether the cause of the destruction of so many dies – in the material or in our management in tampering them, it might perhaps be describe to him to have the pieces of the broken dies sent on, and we shall therefore keep them subject to your order.”

November 15th, - Longacre to Snowden – he felt that the half dollar dies had an irregular convexity on the face of the die resulting no doubt from the hardening process. The selection of steel for dies was made by Coining Department Foreman, George Eckfeldt, and he always insists on using the best steel and would not have used anything defective. (This letter misfiled into November of 1854 in Entry 11, 1854, page 119)

November 23rd – Snowden to Bienvenu – in order to get uniformity for all dies for all the mints, and to avoid the difficulties, the following regulations are submitted: “That all dies be struck as best from the hubs (punches in relief) kept at their mint. 2. That they be turned to the uniform diameters in the necks by gauges as practiced in this Mint. 3. That they be hardened and faced on discs (connected?) to the curvature of the various denominations.

By doing the above, it may be necessary to have each die, or pair of dies, made to fit the press or presses in which they are intended to be worked.”

November 24th, - New Coiner Guirot to Snowden – he sent 2 broken half dollar heads, 1 broken ½ dollar reverse, and 2 dime heads broken. He then explained to Snowden the circumstances; “The ½ dollar head dies had a large flare – cracked; one other had a small flaw near the center and gave way after about 12,000 struck pieces; and one of the dime dies also cracked during the appliance of a fair heat, the other dime die had too shallow of a date.” He added, that they always follow the proper procedures for hardening dies, but the smaller dies seem to have a problem with a shallow date. He also added, that the

reasons for a lower coinage is mostly because our machinery is not adequate. Another is that much of the gold dust from California goes to New York instead of here. The operations of this mint are thus confined to mostly silver coin. The machinery needing attention were the bleaching furnaces, set of rolls, shafting of the draw bench, need more room for the mills storage as they are now all over the building. And last, he would like 5 additional workmen.

December 6th, - Guirot to Bienvenu – Unfortunately, when looking over the dies for 1854, claimed that 8 half dollar head dies had the new date stamped over the old. Necessitating the non use of some because the date of 1853 shows too well underneath the date of 1854. They can be of no service to 1853 or 1854. Two half dollar dies for 1854 have a neck that a needle can punch thru, but will use them anyway.

December 16th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – by way of telegram – use dies of the next year (1854) now and issue in January.

December 16th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – Snowden shared a letter from Longacre in possible explanation of over-dated dies: first, the workmen employed are same as has been for years. After the unusually large order from New Orleans for half dollar dies for the year of 1854 – we sent 27 head dies and 8 of them (so mentioned by the coiner) were struck apparently by Mr. George Eckfeldt before he left for California to assist in mint machining placement. He was supposed to be finished, but possibly the dies needed to be struck again as he was motivated by economy. He used the previous year's dies and restruck them over with the 1854 date, and felt that they would be useless otherwise. If the die cracks do not extend into the face of the die, the dies are still considered durable, but if not they can be replaced. 4 pair of 1853 date half dollar dies were delivered on the 25 of October. The telegraph from the Coiner of November 23rd did not specify what date for the coin, and so since it was late in the year, 1854 dies were sent and that is how the over-date punch probably occurred since the Coiner noted that there was an emergency need for ½ dollar dies.

December 19th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – they have been using the 1854 dies since the 14th but won't deliver until January.

December 19th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – informed Snowden that the amount of gold coin at this mint is inadequate – requested the sending of \$250,00 in gold coin to satisfy depositors. (on the 27th, Snowden sent the \$250,000 in gold coin)

The Year of 1854

January 11th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – dies of 1853 to be canceled: 6 heads of double eagle and 1 tail; 6 heads & 5 tails of the eagle; 4 heads of the ½ eagle; 5 heads of the ¼

eagle; 2 heads and 6 tails of the gold dollar; 18 pair of half dollars; 1 pair of $\frac{1}{4}$ dollars; 4 heads and 6 tails dimes; 12 heads $\frac{1}{2}$ dime and 8 tails; 6 heads for 3 cent.
(Last note of this letter – “All reverse dies for gold coinage mentioned are unfit for use and might be canceled. The dies used in 1853 for silver, because of the modifications can no longer be of service”.)

January 24th, - Snow to Guthrie – understand the lower gold coin being struck at New Orleans, but we will stay the course for now, but continue to stress a large amount of silver coin.

January 26th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – Secretary of Treasury, Guthrie, has said to continue silver coinage at your mint, and if need be, have the workers work overtime and apply to the needed compensation to Congress.

February 2nd - \$1,000,000 in silver bullion sent from New Orleans to Philadelphia. To be shipped in pine boxes and secured.

February 24th, - Guthrie to Snowden – instructs New Orleans to strike quarters, dimes and half dimes, and not $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, and pay particular attention to the smallest two.

March 1st, - \$400 in cents sent to New Orleans per New Orleans request for same.

March 1st, - Bienvenu to Snowden – very pleased with results of the 1853 fineness, and weights produced of coins at this mint from the yearly Assay Commission.

March 8th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – (a misfiled letter put in after the March 29th date) – Requests the following dies ASAP. Half dollars 16 heads, dime 4 tails; $\frac{1}{2}$ dime 4 tails; eagle 4 tails; $\frac{1}{4}$ eagle 4 heads – all dated 1854.

March 15th, - Bonzano to Snowden – he wrote that he had a machine that counted coin and that it was impossible with it to make an error. Added that an industrious person could count 50-60,000 pieces per hour. He finished by saying that a Mr. Hutchins is on his way to Philadelphia with the machine to see what you think of it.

March 29th, - Guthrie to Snowden – Adams and Company to be paid \$10,000 for shipping \$1,000,000 in silver bullion to Philadelphia for coining.

March 29th, - Snowden sends the dies asked for on the 8th of March.

April 5th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – My last request for dies was based on the demand of vendors supplying bullion to this mint. However, the instructions from the Secretary was to print more dime and $\frac{1}{2}$ dimes. So, we request more dies these denominations: 12 pairs of each – dimes and half dimes. But Bienvenu finished by saying it was his duty to note that

depositors want the larger denominations returned instead. Very little of the old standard dimes and half dimes have been brought to the mint and have stayed in circulation. The profit to return the old standard coin is not profitable to depositors. Also, we have a large amount in these denominations for delivery.

April 6th, - previously ordered dies received.

April 6th, - Mr. Jacob Barker to Snowden – informed that a Mr. Leonard M. Bradford (David Bradford's brother? - David Bradford was the first Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint) had left San Francisco, but before he left, he sent 100 ounces of gold dust New Orleans, but it hasn't showed. Believes the gold might have to gone to Philadelphia instead. Shipping charge was \$78. Could Snowden please inquire.

April 15th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – received your concern about the non-circulation of small silver coin and will discuss it with the Secretary. In the meantime, his directive on more of them to be produced is not withdrawn.

April 17th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – he and the officers & architects have taken great care to examine the condition of the building. Their conclusion was that in order to preserve the building to submit needed repairs: 1. Ground arches need renewing. 2. Flooring of the interior. 3. All the woodwork. 4. Outside cornices. 5. Copper gutters. 6. Paint all wooden work. 7. Plastering. 8. Fencing. - all of this and other problems too numerous to mention. Estimated cost \$18,000. He felt that if repairs not made this year, that 2 years down the road cost will double.

April 17th, - Snowden to Guthrie – notified him of the surplus of dime and half dimes in New Orleans, and suggested rethinking policy of increased striking of same. And on April 19th, Guthrie approved the change, and it was passed to Bienvenu in a letter of the 20th.

April 18th, - Bienvenu to Guthrie – in consideration of the appropriation made for a new steam engine in 1851, he had some thoughts of acquiring a superior quality from American Machine Works in Springfield, Massachusetts under Philos Tyler (former coiner at New Orleans). It would be at a more reasonable rate than here, and it would be put up in our dull season – August & September for the least interference. He asked if he could go to Springfield and discuss the matter, and Bonzano could take my place in the interim.

April 24th, Guthrie to Snowden – approves the leave of absence for Bienvenu. And Snowden approves as well for the month of either August or September.

April 25th, - P. C. Washington, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, said that he would send Major G. T. Beaugard of the Engineers to examine the needs of the New Orleans Mint

building.

May 3rd, - Linderman (Acting Director) to Bienvenu – wrote that a pair of scales & weights for your mint would cost \$1200 (or is it \$12,000 – hard to read) This is a large expense and New Orleans would have to provide funding for it in some manner.

May 3rd, - Bienvenu to Snowden – thanks for the leave of absence, but would like to go to Springfield in the latter part of June since the new steam engine is already in construction for our mint.

May 10th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – accepts his earlier departure for Springfield, and also looks forward to this visit in Philadelphia.

May 19th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – the scales they have now are not working properly and he can provide the funding for new ones.

May 26th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – recoin all coin of the old standard. Also the scales for your mint will be contracted out, and be ready in about 4 months.

June 22nd, - Bienvenu to Snowden – repairs are needed for our engine which is in very bad condition – no coinage for one week.

June – Coiner Duvall eventually got paid \$299 for his travel expenses – out of the New Orleans budget.

July 7th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – leaving shortly for the North on July 10th. Will spend some days in Washington, in Philadelphia latter part of the month – (7 or 8 days there). Bonzano to take over.

July 15th, - Bonzano (Acting) to Snowden – there is some demand for the 3 dollar gold, but they cannot be made as of yet without coining instructions for the piece.

July 17th, - Bonzano to Snowden – Coiner is requesting 12 heads and 6 tail dies for the half dollar.

August 19th, - Snowden to Bonzano – Congress approved appropriation for your mint mint which includes 37,000 dollars for repairs and improvement for the mint.

September 1st, - Bienvenu to Snowden – when he left Philadelphia he went to Springfield and the new steam engine for New Orleans was nearing completion from Mr. Tyler. The machine is very satisfactory and will be delivered by November 1st. Bienvenu wrote this letter from New York and expected to be back in New Orleans by the 17th.

October 4th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – reported that their best machinist here died of yellow fever on account of the city being so unhealthy. Said it will be difficult, if not impossible, to fill his position before the 1st of November.

November 16th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – wrote that he has lost 3 members of his family in the last 13 days. The last one on the 14th. (Where and how not noted)

December 6th, - Guthrie to Snowden – noted that Bienvenu, on his trips up North, will be compensated for. Paid \$300.

December 7th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – he felt that it is his final decision on whether there is a need for more or less employees not from the Secretary or the Auditor's dept. He is in answer for this desire to take his rightful decisions away.

December 9th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – due to the falling off of silver and gold bullion, I may have to dispense with some of my reliable workmen. And he was afraid of not getting them back if this happens. Asked for more silver and gold bullion sent to New Orleans.

December 10th, - Snowden to T. S. Smith – agrees that the Supt. Of New Orleans should be the final authority in the case of his workmen, and not decided by set appropriations.

December 15th, - Snowden to T. S. Smith (1st Auditor of the Treasury) – the Act of March 3rd, 1835 limiting the number of workmen to twenty has been regarded as suspended by the subsequent laws, making appropriations for New Orleans.

December 23rd, - Snowden to Bienvenu – increase the price of silver bullion paid to \$1.22 and ½ per standard ounce. This should increase your silver deposits.

Coinage of 1854

January – all 3,250 Double Eagles for the year were struck in January.

January 29th, - Secretary Guthrie in a postscript said that the coinage from this mint has been noted as being very inferior.

April 25th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – sent 12 pair each of dimes and ½ dime dies for 1854.

May 3rd, - receipt of 12 pair each of dimes and ½ dimes dies for 1854.

June 3rd, - Snowden to Bienvenu – 3 pair of 3 dollar gold dies sent. These to be struck with such a mintage that there will be a demand for them.

July 25th, - Bonzano to Snowden – since the instructions on coinage of the 3 dollar piece have yet to arrive, he ordered the coiner to strike a small lot of the 3s with specifics of the quarter eagle, but not delivered.

August 2nd, - Snowden to Bonzano – sent coinage specifics for the 3 dollar gold coin.

August 3rd, - Snowden to Bonzano – sent 12 heads and 6 tails dies for the half – received at New Orleans on the 15th.

September - \$5,000 in gold \$3 pieces struck this month on the 22nd, and \$8,000 more on the 30th – total \$13,000 worth. And, 600,000 halves delivered for the month.

November 21st, - Bienvenu to Snowden – dies required. 4 heads double eagle and eagle only; 4 heads quarter eagle; 4 pair for 3 dollar gold; 6 pair of the gold dollar; 20 pair for the half dollar; 12 pair for the quarter dollar; 6 heads for dime; 6 heads for ½ dime. All for 1855.

November 24th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – have not received the above die requisition yet from New Orleans so he had Longacre send what dies that he felt New Orleans required. Longacre sent the 4 heads for the double eagle and eagle dies; 6 heads for the half eagle; 6 pair for the half dollar; 5 pair for the quarter dollar; 8 pairs for the dime; 4 pairs for the half dime; 6 pair for the gold dollar. A bit off in a few cases in the amount asked for.

December 1st, - Longacre to Snowden – pleased to see that the dies sent to New Orleans almost matched the asked for – except for the half and quarter dollar – but will send the difference later. He also noted that he wishes to make an improvement in the reverse for the 3 dollar piece for next year. This improvement may be seen in the later years, by the size of the letters on the reverses. (Authors note: the New Orleans mint never struck any more 3 dollar gold after 1854 anyway)

The Year of 1855

February 3rd, - Snowden to Guthrie – In December last, he had advised Bienvenu at New Orleans to increase the price of silver paid depositors with your approval – return the silver price to \$1.21/1/2 per ounce. However, he discovered that the cost of shipment of gold to New Orleans would be a charge to the Government – gold bullion also needed by New Orleans to pay depositors. The silver coin in New Orleans in their vaults has reached

1 and half million and does not circulate well. So, he proposes to return to \$1.21 immediately. He also suggested that some Adams & Co. charges are a large sum for bullion shipment that we use a steamer instead.

March 22nd, - Guirot to Bienvenu – He was disappointed that he was not consulted when the new engine arrived. The foreman was, and some laborers, were sent to the ship to pick up by your orders. Then, to install it when it arrives, after removing the old. Said that his foreman, Mr. Palms, told him that what he told Palms to was only the Superintendent's responsibility and didn't need the Coiner's input. The fact that he was said to be insubordinate and disrespectful is wrong. Felt that he and you, the Superintendent, should have dealt with this shipment and placement together and not with a subordinate.

March 29th, - Guirot to Bienvenu – protested that he was not given a copy of the statements from his foreman, Palms, in order that he can read its contents. Palms told him that he would not sign his comments without a copy of same sent to me. You said you would, but it has now been over a week. It is my right to know under what circumstances I have to dispute the insubordination assertion.

March 29th, - Bienvenu to Guirot – the material has been sent to Snowden for his perusal and I do not wish to communicate with you, unless it is business.

March 30th, - Coiner Guirot to John Slidell (District Attorney of New Orleans) – said that he and the Superintendent are at odds on a subject not listed in this letter. He felt he is right in some matter and does not want to be misrepresented.

March 31st, - Bienvenu to Snowden – received new engine for the mint. Have suspended operations to take down old one to make room for new. Old one will be put up for sale. He then explained his conflict with Coiner's conduct in several circumstances. Bienvenu wanted to have the work hours from October 1st to the end of May – ten hours – from 7 am to 5 pm. But change the work hours from June 1st to end of September to be 9 hours – 6 am to 3 pm. This because of the summer hours when the yellow fever normally hits – to protect the workers and maybe prove beneficial.

March – Bienvenu to Snowden – this is the first letter to state Bienvenu's facts of the case between him and the Coiner. --- Coiner A. J. Guirot was said to be arrogant before all this at times before the engine arrival. Since I was there at Springfield for the final construction of the engine, I was very familiar with its parts and function whereas Guirot did not understand completely about it. Accordingly, he asked Palms if his instructions were followed, and he said that the Coiner said not to listen to you. Bienvenu felt Guirot didn't know one machine from another and decided to supervise the placement himself and then turn over operations of some to the Chief Engineer. He felt the Coiner has always misunderstood his position in the establishment. Bienvenu felt that his relations with the rest of

his officers has been great as well with the employees, and encourages an open door policy with other's opinion, but the Coiner has never been receptive to that.

April 9th, - Snowden to Guthrie – forwarded the papers concerning the Superintendent at New Orleans conflict with the Coiner. First – the Coiner was upset that he had no opportunity of interrogating Mr. Palms (the foreman) as to the facts stated in his certificate. Snowden said no further examination will be done in this regard, but concerned about officer harmony. Second, in the placement of the new engine, Guirot interfered with some of the decisions of placement, and with the Superintendent conferring with his foreman instead of him. Snowden said the Superintendent had the final authority and emphasized that there must be cooperation and communication between the two, but did feel Guirot was wrong in interfering. On the 18th, Slidell said he would confer with both to settle the affair.

April 9th – Controversy between the Supt and Coiner. Mint Director Snowden said that the Supt has the right to direct the foreman of the M/R dept to do something as far as the steam engine is concerned and not to be interfered with by a different request by the coiner.

April 12th, - Snowden to Guthrie – recommends approval of the working hours suggested by Bienvenu. This was approved by Guthrie on the 16th.

April 13th, M/R Bonzano asked for a 4 month leave to go to Europe to settle family business. He wanted to go in 1853, but did not go because new officers were being appointed – superintendent, coiner, and treasurer – so he stayed to assist in the transition. He now wants to re-apply for a 4-month leave to go to Europe for family business. A later letter on this subject from Bienvenu to Snowden sends his approval for his leave for such a capable officer. And the operations of the mint will still continue with his temporary absence. This was approved by Guthrie on April 21st.

May 1st, - Bienvenu to Snowden – will always follow regulations, and did not quite understand Slidell's role in all this concerning his Coiner – felt it should have been kept in house.

May 5th, - Guirot to Snowden – understand the harmony between the Superintendent and officers should be maintained, but did say that one of his letters to explain matters was somehow misplaced.

May 9th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – putting up the new engine and other machinery repair has taken a lot of time, and much was in a miserable condition. Determined to have all done soon.

May 14th, Snowden to Guirot – quite pleased that you and Bienvenu have settled your conflict.

May 26th, - Tyler to Bienvenu – bill for the services rendered in setting about machinery, travel, ext., - \$2,648.65. Bienvenu paid this bill from mint contingencies (??). Records do not clarify. (This letter misfiled)

July 19th, Bienvenu to Snowden – resumed operations on the 15th. He added that work was not done last year on the integrity of the building for it is in poor condition.

July 20th, - Snowden to Guthrie – apparently Philos Tyler (former New Orleans Coiner) and other workers came to the mint to assist with new engine's setup for they received travel expenses.

July 30th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – spending a week at his father's plantation.

August 25th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – an immediate need of rebuilding or repairing the 2 large silver furnaces for ingots and two small furnaces for silver deposits in the M/R. Also, 2 furnaces for gold ingots, furnaces for granulation; large furnace for separating; 2 large cisterns; chimney separating room. Repairs may be done in 10-15 days without interruption.

September 5th, - Bienvenu to Snowden- vaults of mint Treasurer now contain seventeen hundred thousand dollars in silver coin – full to utmost capacity. Demand for silver coins limited, which I can rely on to lessen vault storage, and I am directed use the silver bullion to strike coin. My be necessary to build a new vault.

September 17th, - Guthrie to Snowden – in answer to New Orleans problem of storage, suspend coining silver coin at the present time. This directive passed to Bienvenu by Snowden on the 19th.

September 27th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – supply of gold is limited - \$27,000 worth. No hope of receiving deposits large enough to keep up gold coinage.

October 10th, - Snowden to Guthrie – the Philadelphia supply of silver almost depleted for the public – there was a dismantled condition there for 8 to 10 weeks so no coinage. Suggest that a transfer of silver coin be made from New Orleans since they have a surplus. Also if the transfer is approved, suggest since insurance is so large for coin ship shipment, to use a government cutter to transfer the coin over by sea.

October 27th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – suggest salary increase for his officers. The officers are at \$2,000 per year, the Superintendent at \$2,500, while the Treasurer is at \$4,000. He receives an extra \$2,000 of that from being the Assistant Treasurer of the U.S. But before 1850, he was making \$2,000, same as other officers, and \$500 additional by be-

ing the Assistant. He felt it was raised by the present Treasurer's incumbent by application. Cost of living has increased and the Yellow Fever here has increased costs as well. Bienvenu applied that his officers should be raised to an amount equal or close to the Treasurer.

November 26th, - Bienvenu to Snowden (by telegraph) – shall the purchase of silver be resumed, we have none at present. Snowden on the 27th acknowledges.

November 28th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – enclosed bills for the transport of silver coin from your mint to ours. Also, Snowden authorized the purchase of silver bullion for your mint. Express charges were three bills; one for \$75; one for \$250, and one for \$150. Shipped by the Schooner, "George Harris". (So it is apparent that the shipment by sea was excepted to lower the cost of the delivery)

Coinage of 1855

January 5th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – sent 4 pairs of Halves; 2 pairs 3 dollar dies.

January 23rd, - Bienvenu to Snowden – dies received.

February 2nd, - Bienvenu to Snowden – the following dies for 1854 canceled:
35 heads and 32 tails for the half dollar; 12 heads and 7 tails for the quarter dollar; 22 heads and 12 tails for the dime; 20 heads and 9 tails for the ½ dime; 8 heads and 2 tails for the double eagle; 8 heads and 3 tails for the eagle; 6 heads and 4 tails for the half eagle; 10 heads and 6 tails for the quarter eagle; 11 heads and 5 tails for the gold dollar; and 2 heads and 3 tails for the 3 dollar gold. (Author's note: a lot of dies destroyed – was their really a need for all of them?)

February 6th, - Linderman (Acting Director) sent 7 pairs of quarter dollar dies and 2 heads for dimes – dated 1855.

February 21st, - Bienvenu to Snowden – received dies, but dime dies sent were actually ½ dime dies.

March 1st, - Snowden to Bienvenu – the sending of two ½ dime dies by mistake was a clerical one.

June 7th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – 7 pair of half dollar dies sent. Also the dies returned from your Branch appears to be finished smaller and shorter than those used here. Send from now on the size of the steel for all the dies as you require them. The diameter and length required for each denominations.

June 18th, - Guthrie to Snowden – knowing that there is a large amount of silver coin and bullion in New Orleans – he directs the bullion to be struck into half dollars. And, on the 19th, to Bienvenu, Snowden concurs.

June 19th, - Snowden sends 13 pairs of half dollar dies.

June 26th, - Bienvenu to Snowden- will comply with half dollar order, but because of all the machinery repairs, etc, we cannot resume operations until July 15th.

July 11th, - Snowden to Guthrie – agrees, since New Orleans has a large surplus of silver coin, I have directed them to continue to pay depositors with silver coin, until a point is reached when enough gold bullion is available and your stock of silver is sufficiently lowered.

July 17th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – half dollar dies have arrived. Coiner is preparing them and operations will commence this week.

From the newspaper *Sun* of Baltimore, MD, dated Wed. Sep 12, 1855 came this:
"The gold deposits at the United States branch mint at New Orleans for the year ending 31st of July, 1855, amounted to \$517,180.75, and the silver deposits to \$2,421,079.39, making a total of \$2,938,260.14. During the same period there was of gold coined \$349,500, and the silver coinage amounted to \$1,857,000, showing a total coinage for the year of \$2,206,500 in 5,719,500 pieces. No coinage done during the months of April, May, June and July, operations in the coining department having been suspended for the purpose of putting up a new engine."

December 20th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – said that he sent a requisition for dies on November 19th, but feels that Snowden didn't receive the letter. He said that to add to the dies already sent, they need: 6 heads for the half dollar; same for quarters and dimes; 1 rev for 3 cent; 3 reverses for gold dollar; 2 head for ½ dimes (1856 dated).

December 22nd, - Snowden to Bienvenu – before he received the December 20th letter, sent 8 ½ dollar reverses; 6 reverses for the quarter; 8 dime reverses; 2 double eagle reverses; 2 eagle reverses; and 2 half eagle reverses.

The Year of 1856

February 7th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – sends all dies that were asked for on December 20th, 1855, but no tails for the gold dollar listed and a 3 dollar gold reverse was sent versus a 3 cent.

February 23rd, - Bienvenu to Snowden – concerned about the security of the precious

metals and coinage while repairs to the mint are being conducted, and most of the operations are still active. He asked for instructions on how to proceed. Also, iron from the old replaced machinery in storage in the yard – can it be sold?

March 6th, - Snowden to Guthrie – currently at New Orleans there is \$1,800,000 in silver coin and bullion. Of that \$600,000 in coin, leaving about \$200,000 for refining and \$100,000 for coinage. This can be coined in 4 months in conjunction with the gold and silver coinage.

March 6th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – you may sell your disposed iron at auction, and try to get the best price for it, or accept what you can.

March 10th, - Guthrie to Snowden – suspend operations at New Orleans during repairs, but try to coin gold as much as possible before that time. Silver coin is now abundant across the country.

March 11th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – sent Guthrie's orders, and added if something can be arranged with the contractor, Capt. Smith, then try to process and coin gold.

April 19th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – concurs with his closing of operations on the 12th, because of the repairs. Bienvenu's letter of the 12th said that after consultations with officers and others, since the entire building is undergoing repairs, that it was better to stop operations completely. Cannot continue with gold melting etc. - since there is no gold on hand and would interfere with repairs.

April 23rd, - Bienvenu to Snowden – in the M/R there are 5 men working at \$3 per day. They can readily refine 2000 ounces of gold per day for the week. Gross weight of gold received for the year 1855 – 24,048 and wastage from which was 6 -40/100 ounces.

April 24th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – amount of gold coin this mint was never very large was during the last year, so greatly reduced by the use of nearly \$200,000 for purchase of silver bullion and a draft \$100,000 (of gold coin?) as to cause a great inconvenience and sometimes delay in payment of gold deposits.

May 12th, - Snowden to Guthrie – operations suspended at New Orleans for the needed repairs. Also, Bienvenu is asking for a leave of absence for 3 to 4 weeks. Guthrie accepted both to occur.

May 25th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – new engine put on trial and was successful. Rolling and punching rooms are next for repair. Hope to have repair completed by June 28th. Also, Bonzano left for Europe on the 24th, and will be back on the 25th of September.

June 9th, - Bonzano to Snowden – explained situation around the mint. Several people have been shot and killed near the mint and a bullet did hit the mint by the watchmen's box. Have hired more watchmen for protection.

June 17th, - apparently Bonzano hasn't left yet for he is the Acting Superintendent.

June 17th, - Snowden to Bonzano – learned of serious crimes in your neighborhood from the public papers. Increase security with added vigilance from the watchmen to protect the treasure within.

July 21st, - Bonzano to Snowden – new counting machine has its problems, may have damaged by dampness in route to here. We have repeated it several times the trials for it, but they have not been totally satisfactory. The gold dollar tends to chock the machine while in the process of counting coin. Nevertheless, we will keep you apprised of the results from further tests.

August 9th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – Coining department to cease operations on the 10th because of repairs, but will still receive deposits for melting and assay. Requested a transfer of \$200,000 in gold coin to us for the bullion fund. The balance of gold coin on hand is very small. Plan to make fire proof – halls of the main building; the galleries of the 1st and 2nd stories; the rolling room; the coining; bleaching, cutting; and milling rooms. According to the contractor, this will take 4-5 months. Bienvenu's health much improved, and will stay at the mint while it is undergoing repairs.

August 18th, - Snowden to Guthrie – urges acceptance of the August 9th letter from Bienvenu for gold bullion to pay depositors in coin.

September 19th, - Snowden to Guthrie – reported that the Treasurer of the U. S. refund to pay a warrant for a pump submitted by Superintendent Bienvenu at New Orleans. Snowden reiterated that the Treasurer does not have the power, nor even the knowledge to decide what the New Orleans Mint requires. The Superintendent should be the final authority. Guthrie concurred with his own letter of the 20th, and payment will be made.

October 6th, - Snowden to M/R at New York Assay Office – order for New Orleans the new sweeps machine with directions for the staff there. A Professor Edward Kent invented the machine. Cost \$415.

October 16, - Director Snowden suggests that a Professor Kent's sweep machine be sent to the New Orleans Mint – this letter to Secretary of the Treasury, James Guthrie December 16, - Director Snowden directs the coinage of dime and ½ dimes after repairs to building are completed.

November 22nd, - Snowden to Guthrie – due to the increased demand for silver coin, especially dimes, our silver bullion supply is low. Asks if New Orleans can transfer some their bullion to Philadelphia.

December 13th, - Guthrie to Snowden – demand for dimes and ½ dimes at New Orleans – direct New Orleans to make more. (Author's note: did Guthrie recall that New Orleans had suspended operations because of the repairs still underway)

December 16th, - Snowden to Guthrie – reminded Guthrie that New Orleans is not operating because of the repairs, and he has not received an update on the status of same.

December 16th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – once you are able, coin more dimes and ½ dimes and provide me updates on repairs.

December 20th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – have concentrated on security of the precious metals and have not been informed on a completion date for repairs – it may be yet a while.

December 26th, - J. H. Duncan (Superintendent of Repairs) to Bienvenu – he said that by the end of February that the various departments could begin operations. But could not give a set time for completion of all repairs.

1856 New Orleans Half Dollar with a hole in an unusual place on the coin.



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Mint of the United States.

Philadelphia, August the 18th 1856.

Sir:

I desire to invite your attention to an application by the Superintendent at New Orleans for an addition of \$200,000. in gold coins to the Bullion Fund of this branch mint. An explanation of the reason for asking this transfer, Mr. Bienvenu writes

"In view of the suspension of the operations of the coining department, (which will take place on the 15th inst., according to the request of the Super^s of Repair) and the continuance of receiving deposits for melting and assay, I would respectfully suggest the necessity of obtaining a transfer in gold coins of two hundred thousand dollars to the bullion fund of this mint. The balance of gold coins now on hand is very small, and renders the above transfer imperative to continue the purchase of gold bullion during the indefinite closing of the coining department. Stay indefinite because it is proposed to make five feet of the hall of the main building, the galleries on the first & second stories, the rolling room, the coining, bleaching, cutting & milling rooms, which will take from four to five months, according to the statement of the Super^s of the repair."

As it is very desirable that the operations of the branch mint may be continued as far as practicable during the progress of the repairs to the building, it will be necessary in order to continue the reception of gold deposits that the bullion fund be so far increased as to enable the Treasurer to pay for such deposits during the suspension of the coining operations of the institution. I therefore recommend the application of the Superintendent to your early and favorable attention.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
 Your faithful servant,
 James Ross Snowden.

Wm. James Guthrie,
 Secretary of the Treasury.

Letter - Snowden to Secretary Guthrie announcing closure of New Orleans Mint from August 15th of 1856 to June of 1857 for repairs to building.

Coinage of 1856

June 26th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – 12 heads for the half dollar and 4 heads for the dime sent.

There was no coinage at this mint from August 15th, 1856 to June 1857 owing to repairs made in the coining department. This would explain the low gold mintage submissions, especially the Double Eagle of the 1856 date (2,250 pieces – a major rarity). However, silver issues were minted at a normal issue rate.

The Year of 1857

January 2nd, - Snowden to new Secretary of the Treasury, Howell Cobb - \$800,000 of silver bullion transferred to Philadelphia from New Orleans.

January 3rd, - Bienvenu to Snowden – informed him that the operations have been suspended on account of the appropriation being exhausted.

January 4th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – authorized \$100,000 in gold bullion sent to New Orleans in order to pay your depositors.

January 26th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – balance of gold coin at New Orleans is \$29,500 – owed to depositors is \$16,500. Since operations are still not on, may need more gold bullion.

February 3rd, - Snowden to Guthrie (last month for Guthrie's term) – New Orleans needs more gold bullion (in coin) suggests sending them \$100,000 worth, since operations are suspended and low amount of gold on hand.

February 10th, - Guthrie to Snowden – send \$20,000 in silver coin (dimes and half dimes) to New Orleans by steamer. Send this amount on February 20th.

March 14th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – appropriation for your mint at \$66,900 is approved for the fiscal year starting July 1st, 1857.

March 14th, - Assistant U. S. Treasurer, John Cisco, to Snowden – sent to Treasurer at New Orleans (James Brewer) \$2,000 for steamer “Black Warrior” which left port on March 2nd and also had insurance for shipment of \$124.78. This is the \$20,000 shipment of silver coin to New Orleans.

March 18th, - Snowden to Cobb – in reference to Brooks (former coiner at New Orleans) – Bonzano stated that when he held that office he did an excellent job. Apparently a thought of appointing him somewhere (letter hard to read).

March 20th, - Brooks (appointed Coiner at New Orleans) to Snowden – a letter of thanks for your support on my appointment as Coiner at New Orleans.

April 27th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – hoping to return to full operations within the month – repairs to the mint are progressing very slowly indeed.

April 29th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – stop purchasing silver bullion at your branch until further ordered.

May 9th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – notice of one million silver ingots to be sent to

Philadelphia from New Orleans.

May 15th, - Bienvenu to Snowden (via telegram) – silver bullion to be shipped on the 19th to you.

May 19th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – Captain of the Watch had to move his residence at the mint because of the repairs being done, and he has to be away from the mint. Suggest 50 cent pay increase.

May 19th, - General Superintendent of Adams Express & Co. (E. S. Sanford) to A. Garther (Superintendent Western Division) – quite upset with the leak to the Cincinnati Commercial newspaper of the silver shipment. Take steps to alleviate this situation.

May 25th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – shipment of silver bullion will commence this day at 5 pm. And, on June 10th, Snowden reported that it arrived safely.

June 23rd, - Bienvenu to Snowden – general operations will resume once again on July 1st.

July 5th, - Snowden to Cobb – the Post Master at New Orleans requests \$100 in cents of the new issue (Flying Eagle Cents). Sent to New Orleans first – sent July 10th.

July 23rd, - Snowden to Bienvenu – very hard to read (smudged) – but it is apparent that Snowden is asking him to send patterns to Philadelphia of the newest strikings from their finished dies. Something about decimal size.

August 12th, Bienvenu to Snowden – concerning mint repairs – damage to his mint residence. Talked to Capt Smith (Supt of Repairs) about damage to his rugs and furniture caused by the removal of chimney above his domicile. Soot and bricks on the rug and did not have knowledge of them doing so, and the cleaning of the rug did not remove the soot stain. Also, 4 arm chairs damaged causing \$275 to repair. He said Capt. Smith agreed with his reimbursement claim, that the government should take care of it, and also quite sorry for the damage. However, Capt Smith, before I could pursue the matter further, left suddenly. His replacement, Capt Duncan, was also supportive and said he would pursue. And last, he asked Snowden to confer with the Secretary about the incident and hopefully reimburse the damages.

August 26th, - Linderman (Acting Director) to Bienvenu – told him that Snowden is spending a few weeks with his family. And, when he returns he will give Bienvenu's application for compensation for injury to his furniture to proper authority.

September 7th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – asked for specific details of damage from

both you and the contractor. Also, it may be difficult to get reimbursement from our department, for you may have to go to Congress for an appropriation.

October 2nd, - Snowden to Cobb – New Orleans has \$186,000 in silver coin and \$576,000 in uncoined silver bullion. Snowden revised this the same day with – silver coin at \$186,700.90 and bullion at \$516,945.99. Also added that the demand for silver coins in New Orleans has not been great. So transfer from there to Philadelphia has been made.

October 7th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – telegraph stating that New Orleans needs 200 carboys of parting acid immediately. Snowden replied that they have been ordered. About \$1350 will be needed for their purchase.

November 14th, - Benjamin F. Taylor becomes again New Orleans Coiner (he was later to be the official overseeing the striking of the Confederate Half Dollar of 1861)

November 18th, - Logan McKnight to be appointed New Orleans Superintendent.

November 28th, - Bienvenu orders 300 more carboys of nitric acid.

December 4th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – knowing that by the end of the month that McKnight will be taking my place, wish to say you have been a good friend and always said that he had did a good job as Superintendent at New Orleans. McKnight seems to be a perfect gentleman and respected by all who he is acquainted.

Coinage of 1857

July 25th, - Bienvenu to Snowden – Coiner asks for 8 heads for the half dollar; 10 heads for the quarter dollar; 8 heads for the dime; and 10 heads and 6 tails for ½ dimes.

July 28th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – sent dies, probably before the ones asked for since no reverse dies for the ½ dime are listed in the shipment. But, Longacre, in his list, has the ½ dime tails.

August 8th, - Snowden to Bienvenu – sent 2 reverse eagle dies as requested by telegraph on July 31st.

November 27th, - Longacre noted dies sent for 1858; 4 heads double eagle; 6 heads and 3 tails for the eagle; two 3 dollar tails; 3 ¼ eagle heads; 3 gold dollar tails; 8 pair of half dollar; 5 heads and 3 reverses for the quarter dollar; 4 heads for the dime; and 4 heads for the ½ dime.

December 31st, - Guirot (Assistant Treasurer at New Orleans now) to Cobb – gold dollars are disliked here in New Orleans, and the banks are refusing to take them on deposit. Suggested suspension of coining of same.

The Year of 1858

January 9th, - Snowden to Cobb – gold dollars not circulating in New Orleans and depositors and Banks do not want them. We will only strike them here according to demand. (New Orleans struck their last gold dollars in 1855 – 55,000 pieces).

January 18th, - McKnight to Snowden – recommends the appointments of Martin Gordon Kennedy as Chief Clerk; Oscar Isnard as Assistant Clerk; Marcelin Esnard as Weight Clerk in his office.

February 20th, - McKnight to Snowden – would like to have a “Director’s Clerk” that is not here at this mint, but according to reps, it is allowed. Suggest also to eliminate the job of messenger and let a clerk do the same job – going to post office, delivery, messages, and showing visitors to the mint. Felt that this could easily be done by a clerk and still do his other duties. Suggested \$90-\$100/month. He would also give up a part of his quarters for the Clerk of the Director.

March 10th, - Snowden to Cobb – recommends that McKnight at New Orleans be allowed to appoint a Superintendent’s clerk at \$3.50/day.

March 20th, - McKnight to Snowden – advises him as to the Section of the Mint Law (18 Jan 1837) – “is of much force and effect upon this Branch Mint as to forbid the appointment of Deputy Superintendent by me from amongst persons who are not attached to the Mint.” On the 29th, Snowden confirmed that a “qualified” (from the mint) could perform the Superintendent’s duties in your absence, but only from the mint.

March 20th, - McKnight to Snowden – need for a Hydraulic Press. Snowden responded that it will soon be addressed.

March 23rd, - Millspaugh (Assayer) to Supt of Repairs – he noted to the Supt of Repairs that his department should be on the river side of the building – opposite where it had been – and away and free from the jar of the machinery of M/R. The rooms occupied formerly by the Supt as quarters on the 1st floor of the river wing, or the 4 rooms over them on the 2nd, all vacant were the most suitable in the building for his purposes. McKnight said he intended giving the rooms on the 1st and 2nd floors, with their kitchen in the basement to his Messenger. By doing this for an employee of obscurity – to give him the best quarters in the Mint – will effect our operations. Millspaugh offered to advise or suggest contrary to

this for it would delay the progress of my own works.

March – there were conflicts between the Assayer and Superintendent Logan McKnight. Supt McKnight was in office for only 4 months because of the following: McKnight asked for a leave of absence by a letter dated April 18th, because of his health. But he did not designate an acting Supt to take over the position, which caused a problem of final authority. The Supt's clerk was temporarily appointed "acting", but that his position as clerk was never authorized. Nevertheless, Mr. Alpuente served as acting from a short period of May 8th to May 25th. According to Director Snowden, in a letter to Secretary Cobb, this young man used to be a messenger of the Superintendent. Snowden suggested that Assayer Millspaugh be the acting Supt, which he did become from May 25th – July 9th.

May 11th, - The McKnight story continues with a reported letter (dated May 11th) from him to ask M/R Bonzano to cover for him during his absence (he would be in Europe) and he would compensate him. Bonzano did not want extra compensation. However, on May 7th, McKnight was supposed to see his officers but did not show. They met him at the ship in which he was departing, and he said that he had sent a letter to the Director to approve an acting Supt while he was gone, but had not heard back yet for Bonzano's appointment. So McKnight told his chief clerk, Alpuente, to put it in the "order book". Well the chief clerk misunderstood, and thought that McKnight had made him the acting. When the officers got back to the mint, they read the order book and it said that Alpuente was appointed the acting position. The officers then contacted the U.S. District Attorney to see if this was valid.

In another letter, dated May 11th, Coiner Benjamin F. Taylor, said that Alpuente is the stepson of the mint's Treasurer, A. J. Guirot, and is violent, hasty and a passionate individual, who once stabbed a waiter in a restaurant only because he didn't pass around the champagne fast enough. He then fled to Havana. The Treasurer had pushed his stepson to be the Supt's clerk and got the position.

Alpuente later wrote to the Director and Treasury Secretary that he will fulfill his acting duties until a decision was made. In the end, the District Attorney said that since the Supt had the authority to designate, it would be up to the Director to approve or disapprove the appointment. The Director apparently did not approve, and Alpuente was removed from his post.

May 24th, - Snowden to Millspaugh – appointed acting Superintendent.

May 25th, - Snowden to Cobb – informed him that he had sent a copy of his duties (interim Superintendent Millspaugh) and also directed to not recognize Alpuente as Superintendents Clerk because his appointment was unauthorized. And, suggests a replacement for McKnight.

June 22nd, - William A. Elmore – takes over as Superintendent at New Orleans.

July 27th, - Elmore to Snowden – clock in the mint is so old it is beyond repair. Asked for \$70 to purchase a new one because it so necessary. Approved August 2nd, by Snowden.

July 28th, - Elmore to Cobb – asked for the purchase of 5 or 6 thousand barrels of coal. They are now out of it.

September 10th, Snowden to Elmore – silver bars may be made at your mint and appropriately stamped accordingly with fineness, etc. The charges on deposit for bars is 50 cents per 100 dollars of gross value. Any gold parted from same is given to the depositor if more than 1 dollar – paid in coin. (Most of the silver bars have come from Mexico and on August 27th, they had 43 bars of same – value \$60,000.

November 19th, - Elmore to Snowden – delay in giving reports because of sickness and domestic affliction in his family, and by indisposition among the clerks of this mint.

December 2nd, - Benjamin F. Taylor (Coiner) to Snowden – said when he came into the mint, he found it in an unfinished condition; and only a portion of the machinery permanently put up. Part of it still remains in a temporary condition. The punches, draw benches, the mill have not been permanently fixed. The extraordinary demand for coin has kept my employees quite busy. He suggested also to let the Coiner come to Philadelphia to get the dies and return then with him to New Orleans and has been done before.

December 6th, - Elmore to Snowden – in reference to Coiner Taylor's request for leave to Philadelphia to receive dies, Elmore felt, by regulations, Taylor should have asked him first for either approval or rejection.

December 9th, - Elmore to Snowden – due to the successful opening of the Tehuau-tipee route to California, more gold is expected to arrive at this mint. Asked for increase in gold bullion fund, what is now but \$58,944.10 which will not be adequate if the increased expected amount of gold arrives.

December 10th, - Taylor to Elmore – a copy of a letter that Taylor originally sent to the Director concerning his reasoning to ask the Director for approval of the leave of absence issue. He said that since he was a President appointee that he felt obligated to ask the Government for approval, not just the Superintendent. He added that if the Superintendent had just communicated to me his concern, he would have done it differently. And, he said the Doorkeeper had written the previous letter from the Superintendent to the Director about the leave of absence request misdirected.

December 13th, - Snowden to Taylor – make your application for leave of absence first to your Superintendent so that he may give his views on the subject.

December 15th, - Elmore to Snowden – he felt that there was no more necessity to belabor this matter of leave of absence, but wanted that Taylor had consulted him first. His reason for using the doorkeeper as a ‘copyist’ for his letter to the Director was because no clerk was available to write it, so he used the doorkeeper, Mr. Wicks, who is a decent, and intelligent man.

December 18th, - Snowden to Elmore – request for an increase in gold bullion should go through the U. S. Treasury, and in the meantime, gold deposits can be paid off in silver coin.

December 20th, - Elmore to Snowden – sent an 8 page letter. He began with his opinion that he should have a residence in the mint since he currently did not. His related to several past events, including the first Superintendent’s allowance to live in the mint by statute, then included how Superintendent Kennedy and Treasurer Cammack came to a head as to who has the right to live there, to the problem that his direct former colleague in the Superintendent position, McKnight, had with placing his Superintendent’s Clerk, Alpuente, in a residence in same. Elmore also mentioned that McKnight did not reside in the mint as well, partly because of the extensive repairs. Also, the Assayer now occupies, after reconstruction of rooms, uses one of the former residence areas as his workplace. He has discussed this matter with the Superintendent of Repairs and this Superintendent has kind of washed his hands of the affair and said he just did what he was told. Elmore finished with a repeated request to have residence in the mint, and asked for Snowden’s advice. (This letter is very detailed, but these are the high points of it – located in Entry 11, 1857, Pages 476-487)

December 20th, - Elmore added drawn diagrams showing his suggested rearrangement of the 1st and 2nd floors. (located in Entry 11, 1857, Pages 486-487.

December 22nd, - Elmore to Snowden – he had furnished a copy of the regulations to Coiner Taylor providing as evidence as to who & how his request should have done.

December 31st, John Slidell to Snowden – has a letter from Elmore to ask about his salary and residence in the mint. Slidell wrote that the Superintendent salary was fixed, because free residence given to him at the mint – so no change in salary. Also he agreed that Elmore should reside in the mint by the original statutes that provide the same.



1858 New Orleans Quarter Dollar (courtesy of Stacks/Bowers auctions)

Coinage of 1858

January 8th, - New Mint superintendent McKnight to Snowden – we have not yet received the dies asked for on November 5th. New Coiner Taylor has those dies requested case none others have been sent since those dies sent November 27th – 12 head half dollars; 7 heads quarter dollar; 2 heads dimes; 2 heads ½ dimes; 3 heads for the ½ eagle.

January 9th, - Snowden to Bienvenu (it should be to McKnight) – dies sent – 4 ½ eagle heads; 2 quarter eagle heads; two ½ dollar heads; 2 quarter dollar heads; 2 dime heads. (These dies were received on January 25th.)

January 25th, - Snowden to McKnight – 4 heads and 1 reverse for half dollars; 5 quarter heads; and 2- ½ dime heads dies sent. (These 12 dies were received on February 11th.)

February 13th, - Snowden to McKnight – more dies sent – 3 head double eagle; 2 heads and 1 reverse for the eagle; 4 heads ½ eagle; 6 heads for the half dollar; 4 heads for the dime; and 4 heads for the ½ dime.

March 5th, - Snowden to McKnight – 8 half dollar head dies, and 3 quarter dollar head dies sent.

March 29th, - McKnight to Snowden – total coinage for March - \$100,000 in gold and \$600,000 in silver.

June 14th, - Millspaugh to Snowden – 6 half head and 12 reverse dies received.

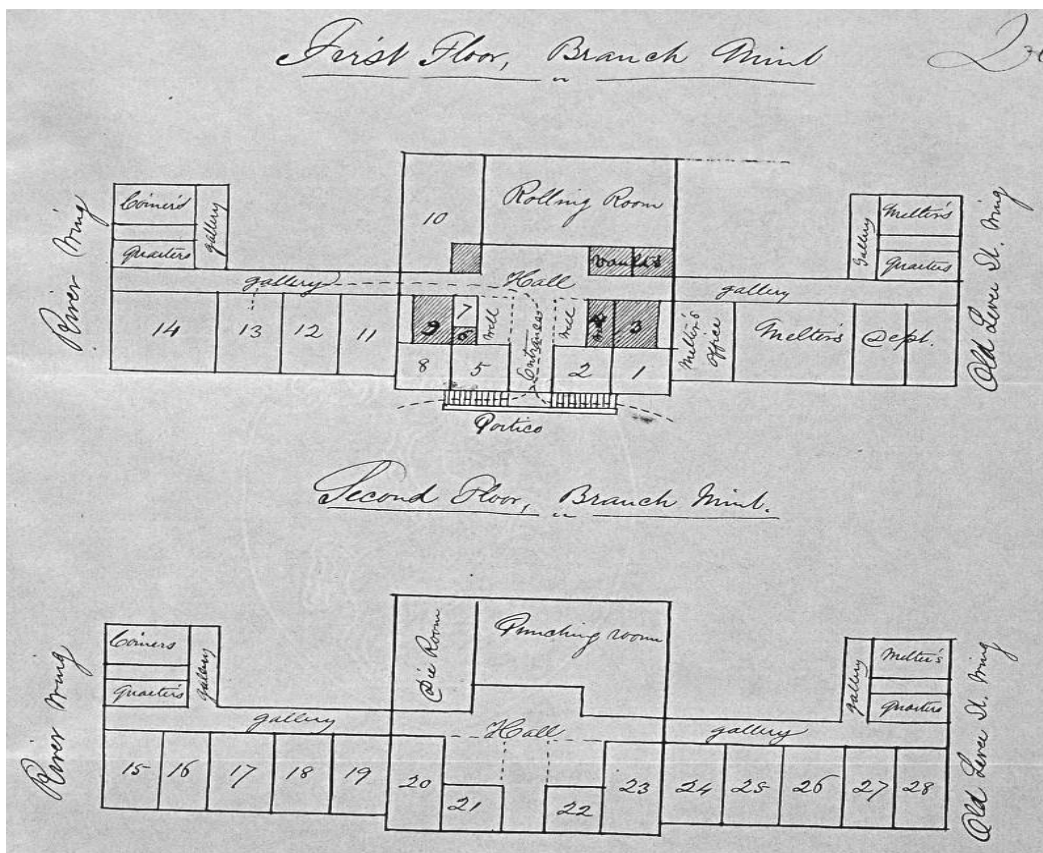
July 23rd, - Elmore to Snowden – received 6 head, and 8 reverse dies for the half dollar.

November 19th, - Elmore to Snowden – Coiner requires following dies for 1859: 14 heads for the half dollar; 12 heads for the quarter dollar; 10 heads for the dime; 10 heads for the ½ dime with 7 reverses of same; 6 heads for the double eagle and 4 reverses; 6 heads for the eagle and 2 reverses; 6 heads for the ½ eagle; and 4 reverses for the 3 dollar gold.

<Entry 216, 1858, pages 246-254 in *Newman's Numismatic Portal* are regulations pertaining to operations of mint and employees in this printed work. Pages 469-494 changes of rooms at the mint – very detailed.>

1858 New Orleans Eagle – courtesy of Stacks/Bowers
Auctions





Superintendent Elmore's diagram plans sent to Snowden providing for Elmore's residence in the Mint
 – with new arrangements for all the officers and their departments.

The Year of 1859

January 12th, - Snowden to Elmore – if it does not harm public business and the other officers are in agreement to the room departments, then he is in favor of Elmore making his residence in the mint.

January 17th, - Elmore to Snowden – gave his opinion about Coiner Taylor's recent request for a leave of absence. Elmore wrote that his last leave of absence back in August through 20 October there was done because of the yearly epidemic here, - but he only stayed 2 or 3 days in the city and less than a full day. His temporary replacement, Mr. Palms, did an admirable job in the Coiner's place, but felt the Coiner should remain in place this year since he was granted leave last year. With the needs of this mint, he felt Taylor should stay to be see operations run smoothly. Recommended denial of leave request.

January 20th, - Cobb to Snowden – has reports of difficulty in the allotment of rooms in the building and would like him to address this issue while he is there.

January 21st – Taylor to Snowden – said that the resistance in the mint by the Superintendent meets the approval of all the officers, and Taylor's residence as well. However, security of his bullion and coin is not solid since the officers should be the final authority of the watchmen employed. He wrote that there is not one vault in the mint that is burglar proof. And the watchmen have been known to be found sleeping in their boxes at numerous times (in fact, two watchmen were found asleep – one was dismissed, the other resigned). Ended by writing that he did not consent to the Superintendent having his quarters so close to him and his Coining Department for treasure security and the public service.

January 22nd, Bonzano wrote an 8 page letter to Elmore about his concerns about the proposed moves of departments at the mint. This letter is not repeated here.

January 24th, Millspaugh to Elmore – wrote of the fitness of his Assay Department put into the proposed section was at first not acceptable, but now, since the proposal move was deleted, it is acceptable to leave his department where it is.

January 27th, - Snowden to Elmore – agreed with Elmore that Taylor should stay on duty especially since all the repairs have done to the machinery in his department. Also notified Elmore that he will be visiting the New Orleans Mint during the latter part of next month.

February 7th, Elmore to Snow – this is an 18 page letter, which includes statements from Elmore's officers, that contain their feelings on the adjustments of the departments – either good or bad. This letter is not repeated here because of its length. But it does provide first a detailed explanation of Elmore's proposals, centered around his right to reside in the mint. The writing is quite readable, and is located in Entry 11, 1858, pages 275 – 292.

February 17th, - Elmore to Snow – asked if new Hydraulic Press has been ordered – then at the bottom of this letter, Millspaugh, when he was Acting Superintendent, said it was ordered on July 14th, 1858.

February 23rd, - Snowden to Cobb – he will examine the shuffling of the New Orleans Mint residence proposals, and department use to insure it will be advantageous to the public. He will go by the direct route thru Norfolk, Mobile, and so forth and his replacement will be Linderman.

February 23rd, - Director Snowden left for 3-4 weeks to go to this mint and he left in charge his Chief Clerk, Linderman.

February 25th, - From (unreadable) to Snowden – the Hydraulic Press will be done in about 6 weeks for New Orleans.

March – Arrangements were made so that the Assayer could also have separate quarters in the mint with the Supt, M/R, and Coiner. The Supt was not happy with the arrangement as evidenced by a letter from him dated March 25th, on page 136 of Entry 216. There was also a problem with each officer of what rooms were necessary for their residences and also to public business. The Coiner opposed the Supt to live at the mint – said he should be accommodated with a residence outside the mint, and said that it is the Superintendent's right to have his own residence. The Supt rejected this.

March 15th, - Snowden to Elmore – gave his final decisions, while at the New Orleans mint, concerning the residency placement of the officers and the movement of parts of the operating departments. 1st the Superintendent should be allowed a residence in the building by restructuring the Assay Department which has taken up some of the former Superintendent's residence. So, the rooms on the drawn proposal should now be occupied (1st floor rooms 13, thru 19 which includes the 2nd floor – occupied by the Superintendent. 2. Superintendent can use the kitchen and servant's rooms in the basement together with the yards and galleries formerly used by the Superintendent. The Assayer will use (2nd floor) rooms 19-21. These rooms will be fitted up as soon as possible. Rooms on the 2nd floor 22-24 can be occupied by either the M/R or Coiner, and the rooms occupied by the M/R to be vacated for more room (?- doesn't make totally clear here). Snowden ended with the wish that this will placate all involved and advance public service.

March 17th, - Elmore to Snowden – since the cost of providing for his residence in the mint could be substantial – where is the money to come from?

March 17th, - Snowden to Cobb – had reached New Orleans on the 10th after he experienced some unavoidable delays. He found that there is ample room in the building to permit quarters for the Superintendent without interfering with the public business, or with the residence of the M/R and Coiner. He also agreed to the re-arrangement of the Assay rooms – cost a few hundred dollars. Snowden lastly wrote that he would be leaving on the 18th, or a day later, back to Philadelphia.

March 21st, - New Orleans Mint Officers to Cobb – this is an 8 page letter addressed to him, that will be here addressed in a more simplified, and condensed form: The mint had been rearranged in 1858 by order of former Superintendent McKnight in order to accommodate his messenger/clerk to live in the quarters that he (McKnight) did not wish to occupy with his family. Then, when repairs were made, several rooms, some originally made for the Superintendent, were now placed with machinery and workshops for the Assay Department. Afterwards, the officers of the mint were in compliance with the move since they were the best judges of operations, except for the later appointment of this messenger in a residence in the mint, and later as Acting Superintendent. The Assayer moved into his department successfully and the Coiner with new machinery fit well. When Elmore became Superintendent, he felt he had a right for a place of residence in the mint. But that

caused a conflict as all the officers now felt comfortable in the recent arrangement. When Snowden came to investigate, we briefly touched on the subject of Superintendent residence and was about to present our side of the issue when we were informed by Elmore that Snowden would be leaving at 5 pm that evening. Mr. Elmore than told the officers that Snowden had decided in his (Elmore's) favor.

On the day after Snowden's departure, Elmore called the officers into his office and read to them the decision of the Director giving him the rooms asked for and authorized:

1. Demolition of the Assay Furnace, now located in the best possible place in the building, and constructed at great expense. 2. His transfer to the rooms when convenient, would require sufficient lighting, and he was moving to a room that gets uncomfortable in the summer season. 3. The taking down of all the work done to the machinery of the Coiner's Department, and further – the unnecessary outlays to rebuild the Assayer's apparatus in other rooms. And to refit the room now assigned to the Superintendent as a residence.

In the end of this letter, Bonzano wrote that, "We also beg leave to assure you of our sincere desire to submit cheerfully to your decision, whatever it may be, and to do our duty to our utmost in promoting the interests of the Government and the public service"

All 3 New Orleans Mint Officers (Bonzano, Taylor, and Millspaugh) personally signed this letter at the end.

March 23rd, - Elmore to Cobb – on March 22nd, he received a copy of the letter sent to you by his 3 officers, and was upset with its contents. He wrote this, "...communication was full of errors and insinuations, and exhibits with all so much ill temper, ill feelings, and spirit toward me, not to speak of the gross injustice done to the Director, that I propose tomorrow, or the day after, to forward you through the Director at Philadelphia in my opinion the appropriate channel of communication on this subject."

March 23rd, - Elmore to Snowden – this letter emphasizes Elmore's disturbance with his officers by writing – "I must confess that I am astonished, not so much, that your decision should be appealed from, but that so much hostility should be manifested towards me." And, on the 25th, another letter to Snowden of complaint of his officers.

(It is apparently not in the records, but both Cobb's and Snowden's responses to the letters from Elmore to them both was looked over and assuredly tabled. Elmore was most likely told to except his 3 officers' letter of March 21st, and drop the affair since his proposal was accepted by both Snowden and Cobb. For nothing is further seen in the records concerning this matter ever again)

April 8th, - Snowden was paid \$192.87 for his expenses for his trip to New Orleans.

July 8th, - workman John Hacker had his arm cut off by machinery at the mint. The medical bill for bandages, and operation(?) was \$5.95.

August 3rd, - Elmore to Snowden – granted leave of 60 days for Millspaugh and ap-

pointed Edward B. Maxwell his acting replacement.

October – Ludwig Patting (of London) wrote Snowden – that your order for Assay Balance and weights will be sent to New Orleans in about a fortnight. Sent from London November 23rd.

October 22nd, - Bonzano to Snowden – Counting machine sent from Texas suffered from the transportation and in hopes that you may have found it to answer your expectations after putting it in order.

November 28th, - Snowden to Elmore – Assay balance and weights have arrived from London and will be sent shortly. Cost \$155.

November 30th, - Elmore to Snowden – ordered two hundred and fifty carboys of parting acid, but do not permit the acid be put into stone pigs (?). Response on December 7th, was that carboys with acid would be sent in glass containers.

(Found Director Snowden's official signature on page 67 of Entry 11, 1859)

December 8th, - Snowden to Elmore – Assay balance and weights forwarded to you December 7th. When you receive them return the borrowed ones to the Charlotte Mint. New Orleans sent them to Charlotte on December 21st.

December 10th, - Snowden to Cobb – the gas apparatus ordered by me for New Orleans from London has arrived in New York – please mark the item duty free.

Coinage 1859

January 10th – Mint Treasurer said that the gold dollar does not circulate in that city and has an overabundance of them (last struck in 1855 – 55,000 pieces, in 1853 – 290,000 pieces). The Double Eagle was said to be easier to count by the banks – one reason that the banks were not happy to receive the gold dollars. The New York Treasury had sent \$400,000 worth of gold dollars from April to December 1858, which only added to the burden.

January – 1,750 double eagles and 360,000 half dollars coined.

February 23rd, - Snowden to Elmore – 3 pair of silver dollar dies sent. When he leaves for New Orleans he will bring with him an accurate set of weights for U. S. coins, and the grain weight and its subdivisions.

April 2nd, Snowden to Elmore - \$215 worth of the new Indian Head Cent sent to New Orleans. Coins received on April 11th.

April 16th, - Elmore to Snowden – his Coiner requests the shipment of ten heads dies for the ½ dollar, and 5 heads for the ½ dimes.

May 31st, - New Orleans Coiner asked for 4 obverse dies for double eagles, and 6 obverse dies for dollars (doesn't state silver or gold). These were sent June 10th – and this letter says silver dollar dies.

May - \$200,000 half dollars struck, and \$55,545.37 made in silver bars.

June 15th, - Coiner request for a half dozen reverse dies for double eagles. These were sent on June 28th, and arrived July 9th.

June – 3,250 double eagles and 200,000 silver dollar pieces coined.

July – 750 double eagles, 110,000 silver dollars and 200,000 half dollar pieces struck.

August – 400,000 half dollars coined.

September – 190,000 half dollars and 750 double eagles coined (the double eagles amount struck was later added to a report dated October 19th, 1859).

October 19th, - Guirot (Mint Treasurer) to Elmore – in response to missing report of 750 double eagles struck in September – the error occurred while the Clerk was occupied in making the returns for last quarter.

October 21st, - Elmore to Snowden – he passed a copy of the previous letter from Guirot along to explain the discrepancy of no report of the coinage and no assay coins of the double eagle sent for the annual assay.

October – No gold struck, but 50,000 silver dollars and 300,000 half dollars were coined.

November – 1,250 double eagles, and 200,000 half dollars coined.

December 12th, - Coiner at New Orleans requested the following dies for 1860: 6 obverses and 2 reverses for the double eagle; 2 obverses for the eagle; 2 obverses for the half eagle; 4 obverses quarter eagle; 2 reverses gold dollar; 3 reverses for 3 dollar gold; 6

obverses and 1 reverse silver dollar; 6 obverses and 3 reverses half dollar; 6 obverses quarter dollar; 6 obverses for the dime; and 6 obverses and 4 reverses for the half dime.

December 20th, - Longacre to Snowden – the following dies for New Orleans (in part of requisition from December 12th). Difference in number was just a few for the double eagle and the silver dollar. But Longacre wrote that the difference will be made up shortly. In an addition to to this letter – Snowden wrote Elmore that there is a design change to the dime and ½ dime for the 1860th year (Legend U.S. of A. now on the obverse) and this will delay you the dime and ½ dime dies.

December – 350 double eagles, 2,300 eagles, 130,000 half dollars, and 330,000 dimes were struck.

At the end of this year, Philadelphia felt it necessary to send to New Orleans a complete list of all dies sent them for the year of 1859. This follows:

9 obverses and 6 reverses for the double eagle; 3 obverses for the eagle; 4 obverses for the ½ eagle; 4 obverses for the quarter eagle; 2 reverses for the 3 dollar gold; (no gold dollar dies sent – according to this record); 9 obverses and 3 reverses for the silver dollar; 17 obverses for the half dollar; 12 obverses for the quarter dollar; 10 obverses for the dime; and 10 obverses for the half dime.

The Year of 1860

January 6th, - Snowden to Elmore – on the arrival of the gas furnace here from London found it necessary to attach some necessary fixtures for it to operate. It does and it is satisfactory and will be sent to you today. It was received at New Orleans on January 31st.

January 10th, - Elmore to Snowden – explained an unusual large acquisition for the month with the fact they are out of coal – asking \$8,853.53 worth.

March 12th, Elmore to Snowden – Mint Treasurer has asked to forward request for \$200 in cent coin. They were sent March 20th.

April 11th, - Elmore to Snowden – thanking him for leave of absence approval. Leaving here the next day by the Jackson Railroad for Washington City, where it will afford me great pleasure to meet you about the 17th.

April 14th, - Millspaugh (acting Supt) to Snowden – in response to a query from Snowden about acquiring silver bullion (in Mexican Dollars) from the bullion dealers in

the New Orleans area to send to Philadelphia. The request is for \$200,000 in those coins and he sent the replies from dealers in the New Orleans area. An offer was made from a Mr. Heing of New Orleans to have Philadelphia pay in gold coin - \$1.08 per each Mexican dollar.

April 20th, - Mr. Graham (Treasury Official) to Millspaugh – in response to Millspaugh April 14th letter – “We are not in a position to contract for the delivery of Mexican dollars or other silver bullion, we only receive them on consignment from our friends with instructions to dispose of them at the best Market rates.”

April 21st, - Mr. Martinez to Millspaugh – no Mexican dollars or silver bullion on hand at this time to deliver.

April 21st, - Forstall to Millspaugh – he has word that a significant amount of silver bullion is on the way from several parts of the Mexican Republic. However, due to the disturbed state of the country, no reliance can be placed on receipt.

April 23rd, - Guirot to Millspaugh – repeats the report of revolution occurring in Mexico causing a problem with bullion delivery. However, he announced that here at the mint he had \$150,000 in American Silver Coin, arising from time to time, and paid into the Treasury. With the consent of the Treasury, New Orleans could provide, with a gold coin reimbursement, the silver coin needed by Philadelphia. And by doing so, it would reduce the mint of a large amount of silver coin of ‘lead weight’.

May 2nd, - Cobb to Snowden – accepts proposal to send \$150,000 in silver bullion from New Orleans to Philadelphia, and to be sent by railroad by Adams Express & Co. Cobb did not feel it expedient at this time to send more. Snowden receives this approval from Cobb on May 4th.

May 5th, - Snowden to Millspaugh – accepts the proposal of bullion, in coin, transfer from New Orleans to Philadelphia sent by Guirot.

May 12th, - Millspaugh to Cobb – Bonzano has gone on his leave of absence for Europe and Thomas Tiedman was appointed his place while gone.

May 22nd, - Guirot to Cobb – because of the upcoming payment of a draft for shipment of silver bullion to Philadelphia from here will leave us short of bullion in New Orleans. By the payment of the draft by diverting bullion from the Coining Department has necessitated the suspension of its operations for the last ten days, and the amount of silver on hand is not sufficient to keep the mint employed during a week. Suggest advance to \$1.22 and ½ for silver standard ounce charged as formerly otherwise. The coinage of silver will fall short of requirement of the public.

June 24th, - Cobb to Snowden – because of the unforeseen and accidental circumstances delaying Bonzano's leave for nearly one month, his leave has been extended for 3 months – making it 5 months from the time he applied in March.

November 27th, - Elmore to Snowden – before the emergency, Elmore asked to send the 150 carboys as early as convenient.

December 6th, - Elmore to Snowden to send 50 carboys of acid immediately. Telegram response to same from Elmore, Snowden said that they would be sent immediately.

December 7th, - Snowden to Chemist Mr. Phillips to send 150 carboys of nitric acid to New Orleans. (a matter of confusion with these last letters on carboys, no record of how many were actually sent, or when they were received)

Letter dated December 31, 1860 – Supt Elmore wrote the following:

"The usual monthly count and examination at the Branch Mint, at the close of business today, exhibited the following balance in the hands of the Treasurer:

In Gold Coins -----\$75,944.91

In Silver Coins -----\$162,820.89

In Copper Cents ----\$211.83

Ordinary Fund -----\$4,013.26

An examination into the condition of the Mint generally, gave satisfactory evidence that the business of the institution is conducted with care and ability."

Coinage 1860

July 20th, - Snowden to Elmore – dies forwarded but letter unreadable. Then on August 2nd, Elmore wrote Snowden that the dies arrived, but did not write which ones. (Close examination shows that maybe 2 obverses double eagle and 2 obverse half dollars – still not certain).

March 9th, - Elmore to Snowden – in need of 6 dozen die reverses for the half dollar. They were sent on March 16th.

September 29th, - Elmore to Snowden – requests \$300 in new cents for New Orleans.

November 2nd, - Elmore to Snowden – received \$300 in cents of new design and they have been forwarded to the Mint Treasurer.

December 13th, Elmore to Snowden – other dies required are 6 pair of double eagle,

and 3 pair for eagles.

December 19th, - Snowden to Elmore – just received your telegram of the 18th, for the requisition of dies for 1861. More half dollar dies (6 reverses) have been sent this day and more dies per your request will be forthcoming.

Dies sent in late 1860 for 1861 coinage were: 3 obverse of Double Eagle and 3+reverses, Eagle 2 obvs, Half Eagles 2 obvs, 2 revs for the 3-dollar, 4 obvs for Quarter Eagle, 2 revs gold dollar, 2 obverses for silver dollar, 6 half dollar obv, 4 obvs quarter dollar, 2 pair dime, 2 pair half dime. In all, 38 dies. (The + after the 3 reverses for the double eagle is from a new original die, and will require a modification of the milling to limit the border – this directive came with this letter and another Snowden letter dated February 18th, 1861)

New Orleans
Minist. of the United States Philad. Decm. 10th 1860
Engravers Department
Working dies for the Branch Mint at New Orleans
for the year 1861 - furnished by the engraver

<u><i>Gold</i></u>	<i>obverse</i>	<i>Reverse</i>	<i>marked</i>
<i>Double Eagle</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3 +</i>	<i>1, 2, 3 in pairs</i>
<i>Eagle</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>4,</i>
<i>Half Eagle</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>5</i>
<i>Three Dollars</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Quarter Eagle</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>7, 8</i>
<i>Gold Dollar</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>
<u><i>Silver</i></u>			
<i>Dollar</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>10</i>
<i>Half Dollar</i>	<i>6</i>		<i>11, 12, 13</i>
<i>Quarter Dollar</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>14, 15</i>
<i>Dime</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>16, 17 in pairs</i>
<i>Half Dime</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18, 18 " do</i>
	<i>27 +</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>+ 38</i>

In all 38 working dies -
+ the Reverse of the Double Eagle is from a new original die, and
will require a modification of the milling to limit the border.
note to the Engr.

The First 5 Months of 1861

January 3rd, - Elmore to Snowden – sent his usual monthly requisition for appropriations for operations, but had not yet received an appropriation for the last month from the Treasury. Waiting for a reply from them.

January 5th, - (This letter wrongly dated 1860 by one of Snowden's clerks?) - Snowden to Elmore – Use the old reverse of the double eagle and not the new ones. A slight deviation in the diameter was inadvertently made.

January 8th, - Cobb has left, and the new Secretary of the Treasury is Philip H. Thomas.

January 12th, - Elmore to Snowden – in receipt of his letter of the 5th in reference to the use of “the old reverse of the double eagle”. Instructions will be followed.

January 30th, - Elmore to Snowden – sent in his resignation as the State of Louisiana has taken over the mint. He expressed his thanks for the respectful way he was treated by Snowden and said Snowden had “official ability and private worth”.

January 31st, - Elmore to Snowden – assay coins sent.

January 31st, - State of Louisiana took control of \$5,631.04 from New Orleans Mint Treasurer, Guirot, that was incidental expense money accumulated from the U. S. Government deposited on the 8th of the month.

February 11th, John A. Dix now Secretary of the Treasury replacing Philip Thomas.

February 19th, - Assay Commission sends report of their test of New Orleans coins sent for assay during each month of the year of 1860, and it was a satisfactory report.

April 12th, - Guirot to Snowden – question of his final settlement of his Ordinary Expense account with the U. S. Government. He found that the U. S. Government owes the New Orleans Mint \$961.35. He wrote, “To effect a satisfactory adjustment of my accounts with the United States, it is necessary for me to know the exact amount of funds in your hands belonging to the New Orleans Branch Mint, and I would be much obliged to you for your amount current with the Treasurer of the New Orleans Branch Mint, beginning on the 29th of February 1860, the day upon which your last account was made.”

April 19th, - Snowden to Guirot – “In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 12th, I enclose statement of account with the Treasurer of the Branch Mint New Orleans, also, vouchers for the items charged therein.”

May 7th, - J. R. Eckfeldt (Philadelphia Mint Assayer) to Snowden – many ½ dollars (with the O mint mark upon them) have been sent here for authentication because of the Confederacy. We have authorized as genuine each and every one.

May 12th, - Guirot to Snowden – a late request for \$462.77 to be sent to him to cover

voucher expenses of the mint, (sent assay coins, etc.). He apologized for the request at this late date. (Confederacy now had control of the New Orleans Mint)

All production of coin at the New Orleans Mint ceased on May 30th, 1861 with the striking of 242,633 pieces of the half dollar.

1861 O Half Dollar – from Authors' collection



Below: A picture of the same die used for the 4 or 5 pieces of the Confederate Half Dollar struck in May of 1861. Notice the light die crack from the nose up to the denticles (above coin lacks this crack). We have evidence that the engraver himself received a piece – making a potential total of 5 pieces.



An interesting report appeared in the *Times Picayne* newspaper of New Orleans, dated July 2nd, 1885, which announced the discovery of an old New Orleans Mint record from the books of the Coiner, Benjamin Franklin Taylor. This record reveals, for the first time, and in conflict with other theories of the number, the exact day-by-day production of both the Coronet gold double eagle and Seated Liberty half dollar, under both Louisiana and Confederate control. It also includes the date on when production stopped completely after

May 30th, 1861. (\$121,316.50 worth of half dollars was struck on the 30th). This closing date, once thought to be at the end of April, should now be changed to June 1st, 1861. The final mintage totals do not change with this new information.

The New Orleans Mint was under U. S. jurisdiction until January 29th, 1861, when all the federal offices in the state, including the New Orleans Mint, were directed by an ordinance adopted that day to be transferred to the custody of the state of Louisiana. While under Louisiana state control from February 1st until March 24th, 1861, a total of 8,250 double eagles and a total of 1,020,000 half dollars were struck.

The first number for the March 6, 8, 18, 22, 23, April 30, May 24, 28 totals is a 5.

Note: Each final figure is a dollar amount not the number of pieces coined.

COINAGE:		Gold. Double Eagles.	Silver. Half Dollars.
Feb. 13 .....	.....	.....	60,000 00
.. 15	40,000	.....	.....
.. 18 .....	.....	40,000	00
.. 23	45,000	.....	.....
.. 28 .....	.....	110,000	00
Mar. 6 .....	.....	50,000	00
.. 8 .....	.....	50,000	00
.. 16 .....	.....	100,000	00
.. 18	50,000	.....	.....
.. 22	30,000	50,000	00
.. 23 .....	.....	50,000	00
.. 30	30,000	110,000	00
Apr. 15 .....	.....	100,000	00
.. 30	6,000	20,000	00
May 9 .....	.....	80,000	00
.. 11 .....	.....	30,000	00
.. 16 .....	.....	40,000	00
.. 17 .....	.....	40,000	00
.. 24 .....	.....	50,000	00
.. 28	61,820	.....	.....
.. 30 .....	.....	121,316	50
Total	\$251,820	\$1,101,316	50

The Confederate government gained command of the New Orleans Mint on March 25th, 1861, and continued striking double eagles to May 28th of that year.

Therefore, the Louisiana facility closed on June 1st after the half dollar striking of

May 30th. While under Confederate government control from March 25th, through May 30th, 1861, a total of 4,491 double eagles and 1,212,000 half dollars were struck.

The figures cited by this discovery (published in the New Orleans paper) show a difference of 1,500 double eagles and 249,367 half dollars from the previously theorized figures for the coins struck under Confederate control.

The total dollar amount of half dollars and double eagles coined by both Louisiana and Confederacy was \$1,356,136.50, and this dollar amount matches those given by other sources for the final year's production.

This new information confirming the final production figures for the double eagle and half dollar while under both Louisiana state and Confederate control, found in an old newspaper report, apparently was overlooked by numismatists. The location of this particular Mint report is unknown today.

Thus, through all the challenges of reading through National Archives Mint records that were all handwritten, and for many times almost indiscernible, we have come to put information here that, to our knowledge, has never been presented in this much detail before.

The New Orleans Mint was chosen to study because of all the problems and adversity it had in its earlier years from 1837 to 1861. However, a bonus occurred while doing this research, as it was revealed to us that many previously accepted (and guessed at in a few instances) mintages of various early denominations were incorrect. From almost two years of examination, we have painstakingly discovered the new, and correct amount of strikings of these particular denominations that is noted in our above report. So far, the staff of the tome, "A Guide Book of United States Coins" (more commonly known as the Red Book) has accepted three of our mintage changes (beginning in the 2024 issue) and it is hoped that in the near future our further mintage changes on other denominations can be seriously considered. And hopefully, the tidbits on various employees, administrators, and the building itself can be of some interest to others as well.

Our sincere thanks go to Robert Julian, Roger Burdette, and the archivists at both the Archives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and College Park, Maryland for their untiring efforts to copy and insert the mints' archive material into the online source of *Newman's Numismatic Portal*. Their work has been an unqualified success.

Addendum

Invariably, after a work is almost published, research in the ensuing months uncovers yet even more information that wasn't either noticed or unavailable before. Because several

items of interest concerning the operations of the New Orleans Mint has come to the fore, we felt it fitting and necessary to add them here to add to its early story, and maybe correct any errors in the information.

We begin with our recent research upon the mintages reported for the 1839 New Orleans Capped Bust Half Dollar in various periodicals, and from a noted Numismatic Researcher. The mintage of said coin is said to be a total of 116,000 pieces in the “Guide Book of United States Coins” – The Red Book. The Researcher in 1968 said that he believed that 178,976 pieces were struck. However, we now believe, and with documents to back us up, that there were actually 118,000 pieces struck for that denomination and year. The evidence follows:

On February 26th, 1839, 2 pairs of 1839 half dollar dies were sent from Philadelphia to the Secretary and from there were sent to New Orleans on the 28th, and one more pair was sent on March 12th, 1839.

March 17th, first 2 pairs of 1839 half dollar dies arrived in New Orleans.

April 16th, - 80,000 pieces of the 1839 had been struck, and by April 30th, 20,000 more were struck to make a total of 100,000 pieces.

May 25th, Coiner Rufus Tyler to Director Patterson reported that the half dollar press socket had cracked and oil leaking from it, and added that the head of the triangle seems to be breaking in two. Thus, no halves were coined this month.

June 5th, - Tyler wrote Patterson that he was hoping to soon start striking halves again, but it never happened, because in July Patterson advised Tyler about correcting his problems with the ½ dollar press. No halves coined in July.

August – the mint ceased operations because of the Yellow Fever epidemic, and remained that way until the first week of November.

September 2nd, - Patterson wrote Rufus and wrote that new half dollar dies (with the new Seated Liberty design) will be sent in time, but there is no record of their arrival for the mint at this time was in a state of confusion from the deaths and investigations.

September – it is unknown if Rufus ever saw the September 2nd, letter from Patterson because he died a short time later from the Yellow Fever.

November 29th, - newly appointed Mint Superintendent Kennedy asked for new dies for all denominations to be sure that they came in time for the New Year. Well, that did not happen as dies for several denominations were not sent until January of 1840.

January 11th, 1840 – newly appointed Mint Treasurer, Cammack, wrote that since November 16th, 1839 to the date of this letter, that the mint had struck 50,000 dimes, 9396 quarter eagles, and 16,000 halves. (Newman's Portal Entry 11, 1840, page 15, and we have a printed copy of this letter)

Director Patterson, showing his concern for the new officers at New Orleans, sent a long list of regulations that the officers were to follow. It is apparent that the previous Mint Superintendent (Bradford) did not keep (or lost) very many of these regulations in house so that new Superintendent Kennedy, and his officers, were sometimes at a loss to know what to do for operations.

In addition, on March 10th, 1840, Patterson sent Kennedy an example of a mint monthly coinage report that Kennedy was to send to Patterson at the beginning of the succeeding month to know what was struck in the previous month. However, Kennedy received figures on this 'example' form that had actual mintage numbers sent by the mint to Philadelphia from the 1839 year. This placement in the records of this 'example' form has left a confusion because Kennedy's response form, added later, put only his totals beginning from the start of 1840. What this second form, with its differing figures for the denominations struck, puts now an additional 2,000 pieces of the Capped Bust New Orleans half dollar struck in January of 1840. Kennedy, in his determination to show good faith, was assuredly correct in his addition of these 2,000 pieces, thus this amount should be added to the 16,000 universally accepted total to make 18,000 pieces. Further, the newly designed 1840 Seated Half Dollar dies did not arrive until February 8th, 1840, proving that the 2,000 struck in January 1840 had to be of the Capped Bust Half design.

Report from Kennedy of 2,000 Capped Bust Half Dollars struck in January 1840

at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of January 1840.

<i>Value after deductions</i>	<i>Total Value before deductions</i>	<i>Coinage</i>			
		<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Number of pieces</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Total Value</i>
<i>Dollars cts</i>	<i>Dollars cts</i>			<i>Dollars cts</i>	<i>Dollars cts</i>
150 20	227 96	<i>Sold:</i>			
77 76					
5842 60	5842 60	<i>Silver:</i>			
		<i>Half Dollars, say</i>	2,000	1,000 00	
		<i>Dimes</i>	130,000	13,000 00	
		<i>Half Dimes</i>	110,000	5,500 00	
					19,500 00
<i>deposited</i>	6,070 56		<i>Total Coinage</i>		19,500 00



The New Orleans Mint after closing, looks to be the 2nd floor, but it is unknown when this photo was taken. (After closing probably and before restoration for a museum)

Your obedient
Tre
D. S. R. Snowden



1854 New Orleans 3 dollar gold. The only 3 dollar gold issue ever struck at this mint. 24,000 were struck, and because of its notoriety as the only issue, it is very popular. Mint state coins are quite rare.

Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions.

From the Baton Rouge, LA Daily Advocate newspaper of February 8th, 1861 came the report of the funds left at the New Orleans Mint after the State and eventual Confederacy took over the facility.

Mr. M. O. H. Norton of Orleans, of the special committee appointed to take possession of the Customhouse, Sub-Treasury and Mint, reported that the Federal Government funds there were as follows: In the Sub-Treasury, \$389,983 90. In the Mint, \$101,745 81 in gold, silver and copper coin, \$143,689 85 in gold and silver bullion, and \$172,875 86 in —, making a total of \$418,311 52 to the credit of A. J. Guirot, Treasurer. There was \$883,267 46 of permanent bullion fund, of which \$992 68 was due employees. On motion of Mr. Norton, it was ordered that a copy of this report, certified by the President and Secretary, be furnished to Mr. Guirot as a voucher, and that the Governor be authorized to retain him in his position and accept bonds in \$100,000 for the faithful performance of his duties.